



Coober Pedy

REGIONAL TIMES

Outback Communities Newspaper Established 1982

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Newspaper

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Friday 27 September 2024

# MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR 5 ABORIGINAL MEN WHO PERISHED ON ANNA CREEK STATION IN 1960 CARRYING SACRED TJURUNGAS

On Saturday the 21 September, 2024 a memorial service was finally held for the 5 men at the memorial site on Anna Creek Station. Pastor Neville Doecke from Hermannsburg traveled to Coober Pedy to officiate at the Memorial Service.

The men had all been high achievers in the white-fellow world. A large bronze plaque was made with a wording approved by the families at Hermannsburg, NT. It was planned that this should be placed beside the William Creek road, on Anna Creek Station.

**Background:** December 31, 1959 five aboriginal men Frank Maynard, Laughing Willy, Jackaboy Rakara, Jimmy Graham and Rolf Entata left from the Coober Pedy Lutheran Mission enroute to Alice Springs, via Anna Creek.

Friends and local business people had advised the men not to attempt a trip at that time, but Frank Maynard was quoted as saying, "We've got to go, even if we walk". On this date Outback South Australia was in the grip of a severe heatwave. The terrain was barren and inhospitable and their battered 1927 Vauxhall had serious problems.

Frank and his companions kept the real purpose of the trip private, revealing only that they were returning to their homelands by train and needed to connect with the Central Australia Railway at William Creek.

Against all advice the 5 men left Coober Pedy on 2 January 1960. It was that day in Australia's history that nearby Oodnadatta reached an unforgettable 50.7 degrees; the highest temperature ever recorded in Australia. They had filled 3 x 4 gallon drums with water but had a leaking radiator and a torn tyre.

A couple of days later Monty O'Toole in Coober Pedy had not heard from the men and alerted Dick Nunn at Anna Creek Station. Search parties were mounted from both ends and the motorcar and five bodies were found 80km from Anna Creek Station and only 7km from a waterhole. Not being from this country the men were unfamiliar with the location of water.

Dick Nunn reported the deaths to Port Augusta police by HF radio. He was instructed to bury the bodies where he had found them. 2 days later Sergeant Colmer and Constables Gamble and Richards from Leigh Creek arrived on the scene in a police Land Rover. Constable Richards took photos which today are the only record of this tragic incident.

**After the bodies were found,** the purpose of that urgent trip was revealed by a fellow tribesman; that two of the men were carrying the sacred Tjurungas of the tribe inside a swag, and were on a mission to deliver them to their tribal lands in the Northern Territory. Frank Maynard had been recruited to drive the men to connect with the Alice Springs bound train at William Creek.

The 5 men were buried in graves on Anna Creek Station. Those in the search and burial party were Dick Nunn Manager at Anna Creek Station, Jimmy Nunn, George Marks, Keith Hamilton, Harry Hamasti and Roy Smith from Coober Pedy.

**The fate of the Tjurungas is not clear.** According to Vin Wake's book, "Opal Men", A rumour which cannot be confirmed is that one of [the men] entrusted with their recovery and return, betrayed his trust by selling them to a white man for inclusion in a private collection.



Attendees at the Memorial on Saturday the 21 September, 2024



Raymond Finn representing the Arabanna people (Anna Creek Station area) conducted a Welcome to Country and spoke about the tragedy along the William Creek Road



Brendan Eblen and Dean Walker unveil the plaque during the memorial service conducted by Pastor Neville Doecke



LEFT: Glen Auricht a former Lutheran worker at Hermannsburg, who out of respect for those senior Arrernte men that perished, traveled to the site for the Memorial Service



ABOVE: Pastor Neville Doecke prayerfully dedicated flowers from relatives at Hermannsburg to the memorial site.

[See inside for the Memorial service tributes](#)

SERVING THE OPAL CAPITAL OF THE WORLD SINCE 1982



ABOUT US

The annual rainfall in the area is around 162 mm | 6.4 inch per year.








The CPRT newspaper first became DIGITAL/ ONLINE in 2006 as well as hardcopy. Although online is now the main trend, hard copies are still printed locally.

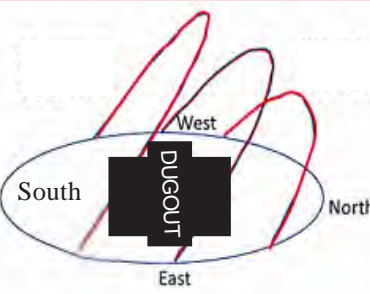
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7 DAYS WEATHER at COOBER PEDY Oodnadatta Tarcoola Andamooka Roxby Downs

|                                 | SUN<br>Sep 29  | MON<br>Sep 30  | TUE<br>Oct 1   | WED<br>Oct 2   | THU<br>Oct 3   | FRI<br>Oct 4  | SAT<br>Oct 5   |
|---------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| Summary                         | <br>Increasing sunshine | <br>Sunny | <br>Mostly cloudy | <br>Windy | <br>Late shower | <br>Mostly sunny | <br>Sunny |
| Maximum                         | 21°C   | 23°C   | 25°C   | 29°C   | 29°C   | 24°C  | 26°C   |
| Minimum                         | 13°C   | 9°C  | 11°C   | 13°C   | 18°C   | 13°C  | 11°C   |
| Chance of Rain<br>Likely Amount | 5%<br>< 1mm  | 5%<br>< 1mm  | 5%<br>< 1mm  | 10%<br>< 1mm   | 60%<br>1-5mm   | 5%<br>< 1mm   | 5%<br>< 1mm  |
| UV Index                        | Very High  | Very High  | Very High  | Very High  | Very High  | Very High   | Very High  |
| Frost Risk                      | Nil  | Nil  | Nil  | Nil  | Nil  | Nil   | Nil  |
|                                 | 9am 3pm  | 9am 3pm  | 9am 3pm  | 9am 3pm  | 9am 3pm  | 9am 3pm   | 9am 3pm  |
| Wind Speed                      | 33km/h SSW<br>27km/h SW  | 21km/h SSE<br>14km/h S   | 23km/h SE<br>17km/h E  | 32km/h ENE<br>28km/h NE  | 35km/h NE<br>31km/h N  | 24km/h SW<br>27km/h WSW   | 16km/h S<br>16km/h WNW   |



Summer Solstice. 0° of Capricorn - 21 December 2024. AWST 5.20pm.


MAILINGLIST

Send an email to be included on emailing list

Local Scribes


Bi Monthly

MARGARET MACKAY News Reporter, Resident and Coober Pedy Ratepayer has been the Editor of CPRT since 2005 and a volunteer contributor since the mid 1990s, covering general news stories, photography, advertising and the coordinating of community contributions.




Margaret Mackay  
Editor

LEILA DAY was raised in Balranald NSW and has lived in Andamooka for 15 years. She is the Chair (AOFTA) Andamooka Opal Fields Tourism Assoc. Inc. Owner/ Operator Andamooka Observatory (and more) Leila joins our team as we share highlights of our respective OPAL FIELDS.



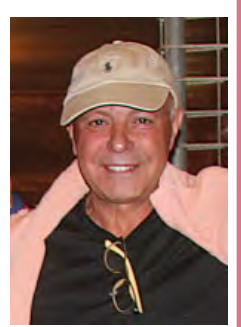
Leila Day  
Andamooka

JOHN DI DONNA was raised in the South Australian Outback and is a long term resident of Coober Pedy. As a business person John is a regular, commuter along the Far North and Flinders highways and byways, covering the entire Far North & East and Outback.



John Di Donna  
Opinion & Commentary

GEORGE KOUNTOURIS is a 2nd Generation Opal Miner/Retailer and President of Coober Pedy Retail, Business & Tourism Association. George will provide regular updates for business and tourism in our area




Pres. CRBTA  
Opal Miner/Trader

The Opal Capital of the World


An Underground Town built on the back of OPAL MINING.  
OPAL = AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL GEM

\*Over 40 Nationalities living together;  
bonded by the OPAL Industry

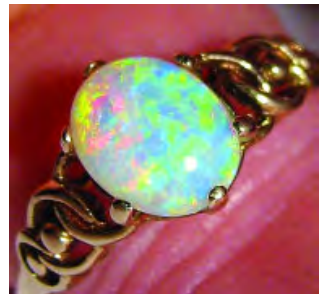


\*Coober Pedy - situated on the LARGEST  
OPAL FORMATION in the world

\*Spacious underground living  
\*Beautiful Opal Gemstones



Shane Hoobin (Opal Miner)



World Class Opal

Opal miners Miroslav and Boris Markovic drilling on Donna's Rush Opal Field

Coober Pedy Regional Times Newspaper"

CPRT became a FREE Newspaper in 2006 and increased its distribution to 5,000 hard copies + and at the same time provided a Free Online Digital Newspaper, to accommodate the new digital era. Distribution covers tourists and nearby communities and towns, social media, website and mailing list. The CPRT receives no external funding.

Publishing Dates

☐ Friday 11 Oct 2024

☐ Friday 25 Oct 2024

☐ Friday 08 Nov 2024

☐ Friday 22 Nov2024

☐ Friday 13 Dec 2024

Four pillars of Democracy are

LEGISLATIVE : The body which makes laws for the state.

EXECUTIVE : Executes and enforces laws.

JUDICIARY : Works to protect laws.

PRESS/MEDIA : The 4th estate of democracy. It informs the public

'Media releases' may be submitted however there is no obligation on the newspaper to publish any part of it. Media releases are generally one sided so comments may, (or may not) be extracted and used in a related article. CPRT does not provide free space for political or business advertising.

Letters to Editor should be sent by email where possible and must be relevant to the community. Potentially defamatory comments will be edited or deleted. Letters to Editor need to be signed, but a pen name can be published.

1.) GROUPS & SPONSORSHIP

You or your group may wish to send a News Article. Aim for a 300 - 500 word story in plain text and a suitable photo/s.

2. If seeking an Editorial - "Advertorial" or "Special Feature", please enquire about the cost first.

3.) Advertisers may be entitled to editorials

4.) Sponsorship for clubs or community programs is by arrangement

5.) Names and Captions must accompany photos + DO NOT REDUCE PHOTOS

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Coober Pedy Regional Times

Friday 27 September 2024



OPAL CREEK BOULEVARD

**OPAL FESTIVAL PARTY**

**OPAL EVOLUTION ANDAMOOKA**

A GRASS ROOTS, INAUGURAL EVENT 2024 KICKS OFF WITH A LOCAL ARTIST FLAIR AND PROMISES TO EVOLVE INTO A MEGA EVENT BY 2027 WHEN ANDAMOOKA ROLLS OUT THE RED CARPET FOR THE NATIONAL OPAL SYMPOSIUM!

FRIDAY, 4TH OCTOBER: PROJECTION OF HISTORIC PHOTOS SEMI-DUGOUTS AND DESIGN FROM 1930 - 1980 ONTO THE TUCKABOX BUILDING FROM SUNSET (APPROX 6:30 PM)

SATURDAY, 5TH OCTOBER: FROM 5 PM - LIVE MUSIC, A LICENSED BAR, KIDS' ACTIVITIES. STREET PARADE AT SUNSET FEATURING GIANT PUPPETS AND INFLATABLES, FOLLOWED BY COLOURED LIGHTS AND PROJECTIONS ONTO THE ANDAMOOKA LANDSCAPE.

SUNDAY, 6TH OCTOBER: FROM 5 PM - OUTDOOR CINEMA SCREENING 'ANDAMOOKA' BY MARA JEAN QUINN - BYO SNACKS AND DRINKS

**ANDAMOOKA**

**4TH - 6TH OCTOBER 2024**

FREE ENTRY | NO BYO DRINK ON SATURDAY  
CARPARK AT ANDAMOOKA SCHOOL - GOLD COIN DONATION  
FREE SHUTTLE BUS SATURDAY NIGHT

K/NET/C Nature Festival OSCA ROXBY LINK Alliance AIRLINES ROXBY COUNCIL BHP Rotary

**OPAL EVOLUTION**, a unique grassroots community art and culture initiative in Andamooka, South Australia, is not just another event. Conceived by local artist Leila Day and developed in partnership with OSCA and Artistic Director Paul Gazzola, it offers an annual series of creative workshops and a yearly festival event that delve into the unique opal fields, the town's history, opalised fossils, ecological formations, and its rich palaeontological connections from the time it was the inland Eromanga Sea over 100 million years ago.

Opal Evolution seeks to reignite and strengthen the bonds between people through a common purpose by promoting cross-community collaboration and fostering artistic, cultural, and social engagement. It aims to become a significant and ongoing opportunity for the far north communities of SA.

The first Opal Evolution Festival, scheduled for October 4th to 6th, 2024, is just the beginning. With plans to grow in size and scale, Opal Evolution aims to become a nationally recognised community arts festival by 2027, when Andamooka hosts the Australian Opal Symposium.

Come along and take part in this new and exciting regional festival of light, projection, visual art and community parades that brings outstanding local and regional SA artists and community together.

**PROJECT ARTISTS:**

Leila Day  
Paul Gazzola  
Nic Mollison  
Amber Archdale  
Tony Hannan  
Laura Wills

**PROJECT PARTNERS:**

Arts South Australia  
Country Arts SA  
Creative Partnerships  
Australia  
Lang Family Foundation  
Foundation SA  
Nature Festival South  
Australia  
Andamooka Opal Show-  
room Underground Opal  
& Mineral Museum

**Andamooka**

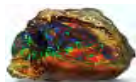
Underground Art Galley  
Roxby Council  
Roxby Link  
Woomera Observatory  
Andamooka Observa-  
tory  
Andamooka Opal Fields  
Tourism Association  
Cal the Stoner  
BSH

**CURRENT and PAST WORKSHOPS**

Digital Drawing with Laura Wills / April 2023  
Projection Design with Nic Mollison / May 2024  
Lighting Design with Nic Mollison / Jun 2024  
Costume making and mobile puppets with Tony Hannan / July 2024  
Digital Drawing with Amber Archdale / Every Sunday from the 8th to 29 Sept  
Inflatable sculptures with Tony Hannan / 14 & 15 Sept  
Lighting and projection design with Nic Mollison / 1 - 3 Oct  
Costume making and mobile puppets with Tony Hannan / 30 Sept to 3 Oct  
PLUS MORE! STAY TUNED  
For more information contact Leila Day: 0466265377

**OPAL INDUSTRY NEWS**

**OUR INDUSTRY IS OPAL!**



**Active Claims** as at the 26/09/2024



Coober Pedy: 461; Andamooka: 166;  
Mintable: 13; Stuart Creek: 1



**Wardens Court Circuits**  
**4 - 6 November 2024**



**AOC AUSTRALIAN OPAL TOUR 2024**  
Experience of a lifetime • 25 September - 4 October 2024

To register an expression of interest, please email  
register@australianopalcentre.com.  
Places are strictly limited.

**ITINERARY**

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Tuesday 24 September   | Evening meet and greet in Sydney NSW        |
| Wednesday 25 September | Fly Sydney to Lightning Ridge NSW           |
| Thursday 26 September  | Lightning Ridge and surrounding opal fields |
| Friday 27 September    | Lightning Ridge and surrounding opal fields |
| Saturday 28 September  | Fly Lightning Ridge to Winton Old           |
| Sunday 29 September    | Winton opal fields                          |
| Monday 30 September    | Fly Winton to Coober Pedy SA                |
| Tuesday 1 October      | Coober Pedy opal fields                     |
| Wednesday 2 October    | Fly Coober Pedy to White Cliffs NSW.        |
| Thursday 3 October     | Fly White Cliffs to Sydney NSW              |

Every endeavour will be made to adhere to the proposed timetable. If circumstances outside our control, such as weather, cause some activities to change, there will be fun alternatives.  
[Email register@australianopalcentre.com](mailto:register@australianopalcentre.com) to receive more information as tour details are finalised.



Shopping day at the Miners Store in Coober Pedy around 1980-1982.

Check the prices for explosives compared to now.

Photo: Courtesy Coober Pedy Mines Department.



COMMUNITY  
CONCERNS

WASTED  
FUNDS

DODGING  
QUESTIONS

LETS  
TALK!



# TOWN MEETING

**Saturday 5 October 4pm, Italian Club, Coober Pedy**

- 1.) Welcome to Members
- 2.) Monthly Report including
  - Community Satisfaction Survey - Rolling Results
  - Correspondence sent, and responses
  - Other Business & Feedback including
  - Rates, Administrators, Water Concerns, Drive-In etc
- 3.) PUBLIC DISCUSSION & FURTHER CONCERNS?  
Acting CEO has been invited
- 4.) Membership forms available
- 5) Sausage Sizzle - Courtesy Italian Club

## RESPONSE FROM GEOFF SHERIDAN RE: THE INAPPROPRIATE TIME OF PUBLIC COUNCIL MEETINGS.

16 September 2024

**Re: Council Meetings Time to be changed,**

**Dear Mr. Sheridan,**

In response to your letter dated 12th September 2024, it is concerning that only seven replies have been received for the public consultation on changing council meeting times.

Five out of seven responses are hardly an accurate indication of changing the times. Undoubtedly, the council's method of promoting public consultation does not work if you have only seven responses.

The council has greatly inconvenienced business owners and workers by changing the Public Meeting time from 7 p.m. to 3 p.m. to participate in the council meeting. Ratepayers must, therefore, forfeit their wages to attend the council meetings held at 3 p.m. rather than the council staff submitting their reports and reading them out at the meeting or allowing the staff time off in lieu.

Holding meetings at 3 p.m. is not practical or convenient; it is the hottest part of the day in summer, and teachers (alliance members) who would like to attend the council meeting cannot participate as they are still working.

*The Coober Pedy Community Alliance, currently with 85 members, would like to put forward a motion (on notice) to rescind Resolution No.363 and move a motion to reinstate the meetings on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. Effective from the next possible meeting.*

In addition to the above, I attended the council meeting on August 28th and found the council chambers a disgrace and embarrassing.

There is clutter and disorder everywhere, and the unused tables in the middle of the room should be in storage. A projector on a table with cables strewn across the floor is a public and workplace safety hazard. The projector should be mounted back on the ceiling where it was initially set up.

There was no microphone provision, which was hard to hear for everyone who attended.

At the next meeting, the community has a right to expect the chambers to be organised and tidy, with more seating for the public. The microphones need to be set up correctly and working again.

The Coober Pedy Community Alliance is pursuing greater transparency, and we will hold the council accountable for its actions.

Chairperson: John Di Donna  
PO 361 Coober Pedy, SA 5723 Phone: 0427 649 389  
Email: [cpca.chairperson@gmail.com](mailto:cpca.chairperson@gmail.com)

12 September 2024

Mr J Di Donna

PO Box 361, COOBER PEDY SA 5723

**Dear Mr Di Donna**

Re: Meeting of Council Public Forum Question - 28-9-2024

I refer to your Public Forum question at the Meeting of Council held on 28 August 2024 about the time at which Council Meetings are being held.

I can confirm that community consultation on the timing of Council Meetings was promoted via Council's website, Facebook and Mailchimp on 3 March 2023 with the consultation period ending on 24 March 2023.

The question posed to the community was: Council has been having its Council Meetings starting from 7pm on the 4th Tuesday of the month. The timing has meant a number of Council employees receive overtime and this costs \$10-15,000 per annum.

Council seeks your views on three options going forwards to save on overtime costs. The options are that Council has its Council Meetings on the 4th Tuesday of the month with the following commencement times:  
• 9am; or • 3pm; or • 7pm but without staff attending, with the exception of the CEO



Council records indicate that at the close of the consultation period five (5) of the seven (7) respondents preferred either the 9.00am or 3.00pm timeslots and two (2) proposed the Meeting time remain at 7.00pm.

As a result of this community feedback, a report was presented to the March 2023 Meeting of Council at which it was resolved: Resolution No.363

That Council approve and adopt Council meetings to commence at 3pm effective from the next Council meeting.

Please be advised that responses to other questions asked during the Meeting of Council Public Forum of 28 August 2024, will be provided at the 25 September 2024 Meeting.

Yours sincerely  
Geoff Sheridan, Principal Administrator

### AUDIT, RISK, UNSATISFACTORY?



Recently it was found that Coober Pedy had only two days of water remaining due to the failure of generators pumping water from the bore.

Worse than this, the current Administration whilst budgeting for an unqualified facilitation group to produce costly Flim Flam, had neglected to include in its recent annual budget, provisions in case of a TOWN WATER EMERGENCY.

### DO WE NEED A PETITION?



The subject of a petition must be a matter on which the Parliament has the power to act. Usually something that the State Government has responsibility for.

For example the Government has responsibility for the three Administrators, and there appears to be no requirement to be accountable on many fronts including how and what they alone choose to spend our money on. There appears to be no requirement to provide adequate services.

It has been suggested that we petition the State Government with a view to improving Accountability and improving the Austerity proclamation including potentially reducing the number of Administrators.





## SUSPICIOUS FIRE AT COOPER PEDY (SUN)



Police are investigating a suspicious fire at Cooper Pedy on Sunday morning. About 3am on Sunday 29 September, police and fire crews were called to Burke Street after a fire was reported at a vacant home.

Firefighters quickly extinguished the blaze however the property was completely destroyed. Police Fire Cause Investigators are attending the scene from Adelaide to determine the cause of the fire.

Anyone with information or saw any suspicious activity is asked to contact Crime Stoppers at [www.crimestopperssa.com.au/](http://www.crimestopperssa.com.au/) or on 1800 333 000. You can remain anonymous.

## MORE THAN 3 TIMES OVER THE LIMIT -



Just before 7.15 pm on Tuesday 24 September police stopped a Holden Ute and breath tested the driver.

The driver a 36-year-old man from Kaltjiti/Fregon allegedly returned a blood alcohol reading of 0.174 more than three times the legal limit. Checks on his licence showed that he was disqualified, and his car was unregistered and uninsured. His car was impounded, he was issued with a 12-month instant loss of licence and he will be summoned to appear in court at a later date.

## Operation Eclipse targets crime related to illicit tobacco trade

30 Sep 2024 2:20pm Police are conducting an operation to investigate serious criminal offending associated with illicit tobacco in South Australia.

Operation Eclipse has been focussed for some time and is investigating offences including arson, assaults and money laundering linked to the illegal activity that was first identified by police in May.

Detective Superintendent Shane Addison, Officer in Charge, Serious and Organised Crime Branch said police have been working proactively to identify the criminal networks involved in the trade of the illicit tobacco and working with other agencies to disrupt their criminal activities.

“Operation Eclipse has established strong working relationships with Victoria Police and other law enforcement agencies and we are sharing intelligence,” he said.

“We will not tolerate criminal behaviour that poses a risk to the community and have already made several arrests as part of the operation.”

Police have so far linked seven arson attacks in the metropolitan area to the illicit tobacco industry. They have involved vehicles, restaurants and tobacco retailers.

Numerous other incidents including assaults and standovers, have also been identified.

Serious and Organised Crime Branch detectives conducting Operation Eclipse have also identified another 15 persons of interest in the activity.

Besides the two arrests made so far for money laundering and serious criminal trespass, detectives have seized thousands of dollars in cash. Operation Eclipse is working in partnership with CBS Tobacco Investigations, who are responsible for the regulation of tobacco in SA.

The seven arson incidents include:

- 19 July – car fire at Glenelg North
- 30 August – restaurant fire at Henley Beach Road, Torrensville
- 7 September – restaurant fire Main North Road, Enfield
- 9 September – vehicle fire Walkley Heights
- 11 September – vehicle fire Mawson Lakes
- 14 September – business broken into and arson attack Port Road, Hindmarsh
- 30 September – business at Henley Beach Road, Brooklyn Park

## Ben Broyd assumed the role of Acting Commissioner of ICAC SA on 9 -9-2024

Ben Broyd is a graduate of the University of Sydney (Bachelor of Laws (Honours)) and the University of Wollongong (Bachelor of Arts (Dean Scholars)). He worked in Sydney for the Police Integrity Commission of NSW and for the NSW Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions before relocating to Adelaide.

In South Australia Ben has worked for the Crown Solicitor for South Australia and the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption where he has been Director of Commission’s Legal and Compliance team since 30 October 2022. Ann Vanstone’s resignation took effect 6 September.



# Legislation to crack down on puppy factories, dodgy breeders and people whose dogs attack

**The State Government is introducing legislation to overhaul laws governing dog breeders including a robust new licensing scheme, limits on the number of female animals per breeding program and limits on the number of litters that can be bred by the licence holder.**

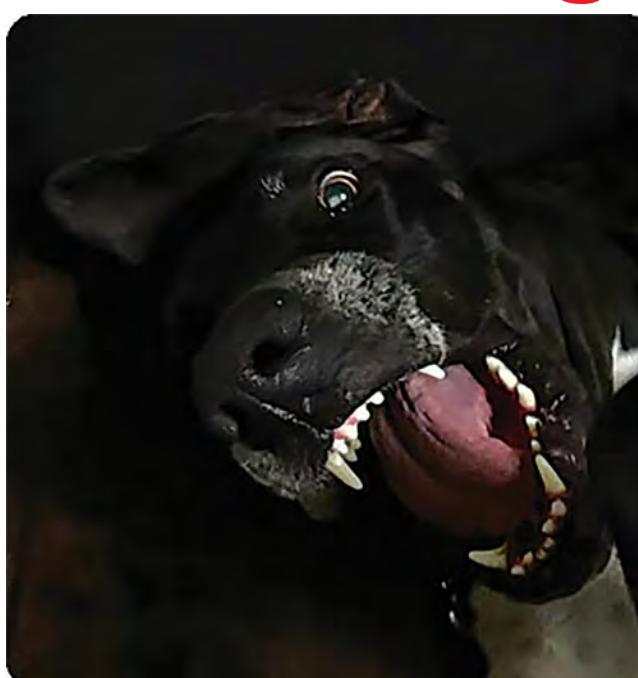
The reforms include an assessment system for breeders, criminal background checks on applicants, fines of up to \$10,000 for breeding animals without a licence and the ability to suspend and cancel breeder licences.

The reforms also include increased penalties for dog owners whose pet attacks people, dogs and other animals.

This includes the ability to issue control orders on dogs that continually wander at large, with penalties of up to \$2500 each time a dog with a control order is caught wandering.

Dog attacks have skyrocketed in South Australia with 503 people presenting at a public hospital in the past year from attacks, while another 1200 dog attacks were reported to SA councils last year.

The new breeder laws will impose a limit of 50 female animals per breeding program, outlawing large-scale, inhumane puppy farms that increase the risk of animal cruelty. Most breeding kennels in SA are far below this



limit, but setting it at the same level as Victoria, the strictest jurisdiction in the nation, will prevent large scale interstate breeders seeking to set up shop here.

Under the changes, female dogs will be limited to having a maximum of five litters in their lifetimes and mandatory reporting of each litter will be introduced.

Dog control orders placed on owners who move to South Australia from interstate - such as a dangerous dog order or a prohibition order for breeding puppies - will also be recognised and enforced under South Australian law. The legislation is expected to pass through Parliament around November 2024.

Councils will also have increased powers to manage dogs that persistently wander in their districts.

Susan Close MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water said, *The Malinauskas Government is delivering on its commitment to eradicate puppy factories and prevent any such operations setting up in South Australia.*

*When you get a new family dog, you deserve to know that the puppy came from a healthy and cared for mother.*

*These new laws will ensure that puppy factories with hundreds of dogs are prohibited in our state.*

*We want to send a clear message that putting profits before animals in South Australia will not be tolerated.*

*South Australians love their dogs but hundreds of people are being bitten by them each year in our state.*

*These new penalties for people who don't keep their dogs from attacking people and other dogs will act as a deterrent and hopefully bring the incidence of dog attacks down.*



# Dear members of the CP Community Alliance.

27-9-2024 We continue to address your concerns and once we have all the available facts at hand, we will bring forward our findings - hopefully with a solution.

We look forward to our next meeting 5th October 4pm Italian Club. Some of you may be away for the weekend, but we are now aiming to meet at least once per month.

Please see latest correspondence that relates to the issues you raised at the last TOWN MEETING

The current TOWN CRISIS, felt by nearly everyone is brought about by the poor management of our historic outback town situated in the South Australian Opal Fields.

With kind regards,  
John Di Donna - Chair CPCA

23 September 2024  
To: Garry Herdegen (Acting CEO)  
CC: Jamie Hay (Water Manager)  
RE: Water quality supply issue and high charges.

## Dear Garry, (QUESTIONS - WATER)

The newly formed Coober Pedy Community Alliance, with 85 members and growing, held its first meeting on August 31st, 2024. Water quality, supply issues and high charges were high on the agenda.

The next Alliance community meeting will be scheduled for October 5th, 2024, and we would like a response to the following before our next meeting.

### Please Supply Document

The case for the sale of the water supply documentation  
Supply charges \$325.00 per water meter on the rates notice.

- Our members are seeking clarification on this charge.
- How are the fixed charges calculated?
- What is the total revenue the council receives from the supply charges?
- How are the supply charges budgeted?

### Testing Points

- How many testing points are in Coober Pedy and their locations?
- How many fire hydrants are in Coober Pedy and their locations?
- How many flushing points are in Coober Pedy, and what are their locations?
- How many air valve points in Coober Pedy and their locations?
- Are there any back flush prevention devices installed in Coober Pedy?
- Are there any horse stable water troughs connected to the main with ball cocks?
- How many flushing points are inoperative?
- How many fire hydrants are inoperative?

### Maintenance Schedules

- How often are the flushing points tested or serviced?
- How often are the fire hydrants tested or serviced?
- How often are water samples collected and analysed, and what locations for collection?

One of our members Steve Zanca is a Civil Gas Fitter/Plumber with over 40 years of experience as a commercial, domestic, industrial plumber, wastewater management and gas fitter as well as Plumbing Inspector for the Northern Territory Government. Steve is willing to assist the council with assuring that the council complies with the following Australian Standards.

- AS/NZS 3500.1: Water Services:
- AS/NZS 3500.2: Sanitary Plumbing and Drainage
- AS/NZS 3500.3: Stormwater Drainage:
- AS 2845 (Backflow Prevention Devices)
- AS 2419.1 (Fire Hydrant Installations)

Steve would like to collect samples and send to an independent water testing laboratory on behalf of the community. Would Jamie Hay be able to assist Steve with the sample collection?

We want to take these results to our next meeting to satisfy the community that our water quality is within the world standard.



ONGOING

# WATER QUALITY, SUPPLY ISSUES, HIGH CHARGES, FIRE SAFETY

## Response to Questions

The case for the sale of the water supply documentation

I am investigating whether this is Commercial in Confidence and will reply if able. I understand there were no suitable responses and not pursued by Council

Supply charges \$325.00 per water meter on the rates notice.

- Our members are seeking clarification on this charge.
- How are the fixed charges calculated?

The charge is a gazetted charge under section 155 of the Local Government Act.

Council sets the rate based on the fixed infrastructure cost (operating and depreciation) for distribution of water to the meter divided by the number of accessible properties.

This cost is due for review for the 2025/26 Budget.

- What is the total revenue the council receives from the supply charges?

FY 2024/25 budget estimate is \$557,161

- How are the supply charges budgeted?

Based on active service connections in the community multiplied by the set access charge rate.

### Testing Points

- How many testing points are in Coober Pedy and their locations?

Water is tested on a strict schedule and regime in accordance with our Safety, Reliability, Maintenance and Technical Management Plan (SRMTMP) and Australian Drinking Water Guidelines, with a NATA accredited laboratory operated by SA Water.

- How many fire hydrants are in Coober Pedy and their locations?

Coober Pedy has 50 known ‘fire hydrants’, also referred to as ‘fire plugs’. This includes private ‘fire hydrants’. Locations are known by required personnel including relevant emergency services.

- How many flushing points are in Coober Pedy, and what are their locations?

The design of ‘fire hydrants’ within the town as ‘fire plug’ connections allow flushing to occur from each plug.

- How many air valve points in Coober Pedy and their locations?

Air release valves are present within the town, locations are known by required personnel.

- Are there any back flush prevention devices installed in Coober Pedy?  
Yes.

- Are there any horse stable water troughs connected to the main with ball cocks?

Not that we are aware of.

- How many flushing points are inoperative?  
We are aware of one.

- How many fire hydrants are inoperative?  
We are aware of one.

### Maintenance Schedules

- How often are the flushing points tested or serviced?

The last full scale test was in July and paint has been applied to many for an increase of visibility.

- How often are the fire hydrants tested or serviced?

As above for public ‘hydrants/plugs’. Private hydrants are not tested by council. Repairs occur to mains fire plugs as required.

- How often are water samples collected and analysed, and what locations for collection?

Water is tested in accordance with the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines by trained operators and submitted to AWQC for testing within the NATA accredited laboratory.

One of our members Steve Zanca is a Civil Gas Fitter/Plumber with over 40 years of experience as a commercial, domestic, industrial plumber, wastewater management and gas fitter as well as Plumbing Inspector for the Northern Territory Government. Steve is willing to assist the council with assuring that the council complies with the following Australian Standards.

AS/NZS 3500.1: Water Services:

AS/NZS 3500.2: Sanitary Plumbing and Drainage

AS/NZS 3500.3: Stormwater Drainage:

AS 2845 (Backflow Prevention Devices)

AS 2419.1 (Fire Hydrant Installations)

The Manager Water is available to discuss this further with Steve Zanca if he wishes, however, it must be noted that the standards council are required to adhere to as a water supplier are different to the standards required as a plumber and are monitored by the Office of the Technical Regulator due to the differential nature of mains water supply and general plumbing requirements.

Steve would like to collect samples and send to an independent water testing laboratory on behalf of the community. Would Jamie Hay be able to assist Steve with the sample collection?

Coober Pedy water quality testing is undertaken by qualified technical staff and regulated by the Office of the Technical Regulator. The Manager Water co-ordinates Testing at required intervals under the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines ADWG).

We want to take these results to our next meeting to satisfy the community that our water quality is within the world standard.

I can confirm that the water tests in Coober Pedy have met all quality standards set down by the Office of the Technical Regulator and ADWG. These reports are regularly provided in reports to Council and are on the public record.

COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY

District Council of Cooper Pedy

FROM 48 SURVEYS  
COLLECTED TO DATE

Scores being 1 (the lowest satisfaction) and 10 being (highest satisfaction)

MOST SATISFIED SERVICES

1. Waste Pick Up (Rubbish Collection) = scores mostly 8 and above. 95% answered.
2. Aerodrome = mostly 7 and above, 85% answered
3. Cemeteries = mostly 7 and above, 50% answered

MOST UNSATISFACTORY SERVICES

1. Roads = scores of 5 and less, 99% answered.
2. Parks and Gardens = scores of mainly 5 or less, 85% answered
3. Drainage = scores mainly under 5 50% answered
4. Waste Depot = scores mainly under 5 50% answered
5. Workshop Services = scores under 5 on average, 30% answered
6. Yard Sales = scores mainly under 5 30% answered
7. Animal Management = scores mainly under 5, 80% answered

Under services OTHER, mentions of:

1. Drinking in public places
2. Water quality or lack of and water maintenance
3. Drive-In concerns
4. Cost of water, power and rates

COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGED BY DCCP eg Minigems/Library/Pool/Support Programs

- Very few responses (N/A to most)
- those that did respond were satisfied,
- others indicated they did not use that service.

LIGHTS AT TENNIS/BASKETBALL  
COURTS ILLUMINATED FOR  
OVER 6 HOURS - UNATTENDED

TO Principle Administrator Mr Sheridan

Further to my address to Council at the meeting on Wednesday 25 September 2024, I would like to emphasise on my comments regarding the illumination of the Tennis and Basketball Court Complex.

I brought to the attention of yourself and those in attendance that the Lights are illuminated for longer periods than necessary which accrues excessive utility costs to Council which are passed to local Rate Payers of the Community.

I advised the Council that the Courts were illuminated as follows:

- a. Tuesday 24 September 2024 from 1845 to 2345, a total of five hours; and
- b. Tuesday 24 September 2024 from 23:46 to 0205 on Wednesday 25 September 2024, a total of two hours and 19 minutes.

There were no person/s in attendance practicing either Tennis or Basketball after 2125, therefor the Courts were illuminated for four hours and 40 minutes for no reason.

I also now advise that the Courts were again illuminated as follows:

- a. Wednesday 25 September 2024 from 1856 to 2340, a total four hours and 44 minutes.

There were no person/s utilising the Courts from 2220, again the Courts were illuminated for one hour and 20 minutes for no reason.

It is clearly calculated that the Courts were illuminated for in excess of 6 hours in a 24-hour period for no reason and the cost of this utility wastage is eventually conveyed for payment by the rate payers of Cooper Pedy.

In addition to the unnecessary financial cost to the Rate Payers, I draw your attention that all outdoor lighting must comply with Australian Standard 4282 Control of the obtrusive effects of outdoor lighting, which sets out

guidelines for control of the obtrusive effects of outdoor lighting and gives recommended limits for relevant lighting levels to contain these effects within tolerable levels.

I would believe that you would be cognisant with the term ‘Light Pollution’.

Light pollution is best described as artificial light that is allowed to illuminate, or intrude upon, areas not intended to be lit. Intrusion of over-bright or poorly directed lights onto neighbouring property can affect the neighbours' right to enjoy their own property.

An example would be a security light installed and positioned such that the light shines into a neighbour's bedroom window.

Sources of Light Pollution may include but are not limited to:

- Security lights that light up buildings and their surroundings.
- Floodlights used to illuminate games pitches, places of entertainment and buildings.
- Street lighting.
- Advertising and display lighting.

Research into Light Pollution reveals that artificial light at night can negatively affect human health, increasing risks for obesity, depression, sleep disorders, diabetes, breast cancer and more.

It is strongly requested that Council take positive tangible action to rectify the illumination of the Courts, to:

- a. reduce the unnecessary financial cost to member of the Community.
- b. be within reasonable hours to enable community members to take benefit of the Court facilities and
- c. reduce the Light Pollution inflicted on the nearby residences.

Cooper Pedy Ratepayer.

DID RATEPAYERS  
FUND SHERIDAN'S  
FLIGHT TO  
CANBERRA  
FOR A NON-EVENT?

9 & 10 September 2024 – Small Town Tourism Award Presentation [Canberra](#)

I [Geoff Sheridan] represented the Council, Community and Tourist operators of Cooper Pedy at the National Tourism Awards and presentation in Parliament House [Canberra](#).

Page 12 of 17 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council 25 September 2024

Unfortunately, no SA towns were successful in the National Awards and the town of Exmouth WA won our category.

Austerity questions for  
the three Administrators:

Q: How many days and nights; accommodation; meals; drinks, taxi fares etc were provided to Geoff Sheridan?

Q: If this trip interstate was funded by the community of Cooper Pedy we would like a full financial breakdown please?

Q: By what method and out of which budget category was the money for this trip approved?



# Are the three administrators using Ratepayer's money to fund a faction that is duplicating existing free services?

**I rarely use Facebook. I do not find it easy to navigate. And to tell the whole wide world when I am going on holiday, or what I ate for breakfast seems pointless.**

A Facebook user who knows I rarely use that service brought to my attention the latest Together Group's (TG) UPDATE posted on the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024 addressing community articles in the Coober Pedy Times, protesting about Edgecomb's efforts to restructure our town to suit the vision of half a dozen newbies including himself.

Edgecomb claims he has built bridges between the council and the drive in committee and so on. Q: Which drive in committee and which council? Not even relevant.

The document also states that the concept Master plan for the drive in was led by the Drive in committee and supported by TG and paid for by the District Council. In other words money we the community need for essential services. But no final decisions have been made and is only a Concept Plan. Or is it a Master Plan? It seems that the TG and the drive in committee don't agree.

Further to that it seems to me that Edgcomb just threw the drive in committee under a bus. I believe Edgecomb was the driving force behind the whole thing.

Check out FAT LIP Production Company to confirm his film career aspirations while he promotes a new movie complex for Coober Pedy. Parliament has been informed that Edgecomb is a director of FAT LIP. On a Hansard recording of 1<sup>st</sup> MAY 2008 Ann Marie Bressington who ran for the Nick Xenophon party names Michael Edgecomb as director for that company.  
<https://hansardsearch.parliament.sa.gov.au/daily/uh/2008-05-01/24>

He wanted to make documentaries that the government would pay for. One documentary referred to was about the drug ecstasy, and he wanted to promote that in schools.

Another **duplication** of State and federal initiatives as was identified by Gail Gago Minister for Mental health and substance abuse on the Hansard recording.

He seems very keen for a production hub to be built in Coober Pedy and has (TG) support. I believe the volunteers thought they would create some employment.

The document also states that any questions about the drive in should be directed to the drive in committee. One minute the TG are middlemen but when the community ask questions the answer is "go see the drive in committee" which in my opinion has been led up the garden path by Michael Edgecomb of TG, Geoff Sheridan, Erica Vickery and John Moyle current administrators.

Why are our ratepayer dollars being spent on something that by the looks of it will never come to fruition? It seems that Michael Edgecomb now known as "Microphone Mike" has found himself a position where he does what exactly?

I would argue that Edgecomb is trying to squeeze into a sort of CEO type role. We are already paying for a CEO, Acting or not. Similarly, he is also presenting himself in the role of regional development services. Something else we freely receive via our taxes! I blame Administrators Sheridan, Moyle and Vickery for this reckless **duplication** of services. Is this also why we can't keep or attract good CEO's?

The TG Update states that these processes were going ahead, with meetings between council and drive in committees etc. etc. And negotiations were going on between DCCP and insurance for the repair of the drive in screen. Another CEO job! TG and Edgecomb say they were involved and yet they had only three members on board at that stage.

The document goes on to state that there are forty new dwellings to be built for essential workers in Coober Pedy. TG goes on to state it will provide accommodation to attract workers into departments and how they have been working with key agencies to achieve that goal.

Which agencies? Why are they not named? What's the secret? Is it government? Is it NGO's? WHO are they? Who is the property developer? What has projects of this type got to do with a volunteer group? NONE The Update states that the project is for essential workers and others. Who are the OTHERS?

The Update also states that when the properties are built, workers will have the option of moving out of dugouts and in to these two bedroom above ground dwellings. It would seem now that Edgecomb and the TG is now meddling in private enterprise and the real estate market. Again not the business of a VOLUNTEER GROUP or OUR DISTRICT COUNCIL paying for Edgecomb's input

The update then states how excited they were they have three new members so now they have six, and names them. Dan Measey, Petta Burnett and Dave Wood and previous members Jacquie Boland Sandy Williams and Father Paul Crotty.

I do not want to hear from Michael "Microphone" Edgcomb and his explanations, I want to hear from the six community volunteers that were named in the UPDATE and why they believe they should be involved in projects that compete with private enterprise.

Release a statement informing the community of what they are doing and what they want to achieve as every other group does in Coober Pedy and as groups before them have done. Some others are saying that they would like to see your CVs to check out educational levels, employment experiences/status and references.

Why is it that they are negotiating with insurance companies for our Drive in screen? Why are they involved in making Masterplans that won't happen? That is a CEO job anyway. Why are they involved in planning a new estate for Coober Pedy?

Forty plus dwellings qualifies as a new estate, maybe even a suburb. Now they are an urban planning committee as well. The questions asked, come about from the TG UPDATE that we all know is prepared by Michael Edgecomb.

The members of that group along with Edgecomb I believe have divided the community and we have already seen examples of that.

One example at a meeting in the Greek Hall when Geoff Brock informed the community that we would be in administration for another four years, I saw Edgecomb telling members of our community that they could not ask certain questions. Edgecombe was running around with microphone selecting who he was going let speak.

I heard him tell people to tone it down when people wanted something done about why we are in administration in the first place. They were trying to be heard from the back of the hall because Edgecomb would not give them the microphone. At another meeting after Edgecomb had gained control, community members left in droves.

Administrators Sheridan, Vickery and Moyle want to raise rates, use us for a cash cow and this is how they use our money by hiring a person that has no concept of how our town works to put together a group of probably well intentioned individuals and portray that he (Edgecomb) has broader community support for what he is doing. This is not so!

All three Administrators should be reprimanded or suspended until they learn how to put a remote community first.

I can assure the Council and the members of the Together Group going by complaints that have been made to me, that the town and most of it are sick of hearing about what they (TG) have achieved when in reality one person is getting paid - Is that the main achievement?

What have they done? Applied for \$70K funding to bitumize a road in town with no-potholes but, where one council worker lives. TG and others, planted some trees and erected two benches in the playground.

They are claiming to have participated in the drive in concept plan that cost how much and to achieve what? I am hearing that Sheridan refuses to say how much of the Ratepayers money he has used for Edgecomb's plan. Our town could end up being stuck with with ongoing maintenance costs, long after the circus has gone.

I have not seen them take on anything of significance eg liquor restrictions, transitional camps that according to Geoff Sheridan was back in discussions last year that we knew of.. Something 94% of a meeting of electors voted against.

They (TG) have not taken on our rates, electricity or water costs which as community members you would think would be their first priority(?) NO. Edgecomb could not have that as he works for council and would not promote that agenda. And half of Edgecomb's TG are not Ratepayers and therefore not affected.

My opinion is that some members of the TG are more interested in rubbing shoulders with seemingly important people, than any thing else.

A new Community Representative Group the COOBER PEDY ALLIANCE has now formed and packed out the Italian club in its first meeting and joins up around 85 members[?] From what I understand the TG are causing so much trouble that residents are running to the Alliance for help. Most of the community concerns are the growing rate rises likely to result from the TGs ambitious projects. The three Administators have already agreed that maintenance costs on the 'new courts (a white elephant) will be billed to the Ratepayers!

It is time for the administrators to stop funding Edgecomb's position. They use the clause "public meetings" so you can join and you will know what's going on.

Long term residents do not like the direction they are steering the town in. The TG has created a "DCCP funded faction" who clearly snubs the rest of the town but has a revolving door membership.

On a recent Facebook post Sabrina Troisi who has left the TG defended Edgecomb and told how wonderful he was. Really? Edgecomb involved himself in a meeting I was having with then CEO David Kelly in the Council chambers.

As an independent consultant, Edgecomb was asking questions that he had no right asking. He commandeered a meeting while I was making a report to CEO David Kelly. Edgdecomb should not have been in the room listening to a confidential conversation, but there he was. Did council get an invoice for that interference?

Edgecomb has got too much to say in what happens in our town. It does not seem to register with this guy that most of us do not agree with what he is doing, only a select few. He does not reside or vote in our town and yet he believes he can control our direction. Sheridan, Vickery and Moyle seem mesmerised by this passing parade. We want him out of our lives and our town!

**Signed**  
**They know who I am**



# LOCAL REFERENDUM TO VOTE ON HOMELESS CENTRE

**Coober Pedy residents have won the right to vote in a referendum to decide whether or not they support the construction of a 'Homeless Centre' to aid in resettling families from remote communities.**

At the September District Council meeting, Cr. Paul Athanasiadis proposed the following motion.

*"That Council, Pursuant to Section 93 of the Local Government Act, direct the CEO to convene a meeting of Electors with nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting as follows:*

*"Does the community support the construction of a Homelessness Support Service (aka Transitional Accommodation Centre) in Coober Pedy?"*

**Cr P Athanasiadis called for a Division.**

**For:** Cr D Bowman, Cr R Berry, Cr S Staines, Cr P Athanasiadis and Cr B Rapaic

**Against:** Cr C Crisa

**CARRIED**

Crime and violence has plagued the opal mining town for over a decade with too much money made available by the government for remote communities to spend on alcohol and gambling in nearby towns.

Ironically the implementation of severe liquor restrictions for Coober Pedy will come into force on Monday 30 September and will reveal the percentages of people left behind who are gambling their welfare payments away while the government spends a small fortune monthly to feed the children of those afflicted.

Stimulating the economy with welfare payments should never have been encouraged and allowed to fester to the point where an entire industry is built around servicing aboriginal despair across the country.

According to Minister for Communities, Housing and Social Inclusion Tony Piccolo, construction of a proposed Homeless Centre in Coober Pedy is due to commence in November this year. To date no legible community consultation has ever been held on the design and function of either the Transitional Accommodation Centre or the substitute Homeless Support Service.

A Community Impact Study is also expected to commence soon, however the State Government has not yet provided legible information on the complex's design or purpose?

According to Elders on the APY Lands, Homeless Centres currently popping up around South Australia will aid the State and Federal Governments to furtively deplete the population on their traditional lands, coinciding with major mining operations ramping up.

Other towns that are earmarked to resettle 'homeless away from home' travellers are Ceduna, Port Augusta, Port Pirie and Whyalla.

APY Lands Elder George Kenmore said, "The APY Land Elders will unite with the town of Coober Pedy to stop the Government from putting a burden on their town and it's infrastructure by rehousing the Anangu away from their homelands. They have already messed up the other towns."



*Three members of the Concerned Resident's Group, George, Bundi and Theo met with Social Inclusion Minister Tony Piccolo recently to discuss his Homeless Centre proposal. The working party of the Concerned Resident's Group comprises Steve Tsakiridis, Pearl Austin, Dimos Tsakiridis, Mathew Lennon, Denyse Michie, Theo Gountounis, Bundi Pantelis and George Naumovic.*

## New alcohol restrictions come into force in Coober Pedy on Monday 30th September 2013

"The state needs to manage it's affairs better and start developing suitable and sustainable industries on the land for the people that live there. We are not giving up our land"

"The Anangu are NOT an industry to be exploited and forced to assimilate before they are ready, just to patch up holes in the government's mismanaged budget," said Mr. Kenmore.

After a decade of serious crime and violence on transient social visits to alcohol and gambling venues, the State Government has suggested that Coober Pedy 'may' receive 24 hour policing, although it is more likely it won't happen due to a shortage of police across the state and the reluctance of police to transfer to remote locations.

The hint of 24 hour policing appeared more as sweetner to try and ease the impact of the Government wanting to use Coober Pedy for a re-settlement program.

In a recent visit to Coober Pedy, Social and Development Parliamentary Standing Committee member David Pisoni MP indicated that he wasn't confident that 24 hour policing was likely to be in the State Government's budget for Coober Pedy.

In a statement issues on Tuesday by the South Australian Liquor and Gambling Commissioner Mr. Paul White he said, "Over recent months, I have travelled to Coober Pedy, and met with the District Council and community residents, SA Police, representatives of the Aboriginal communities, the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement, health providers and licensees."

"In these discussions, I have heard too many stories of violence, anti-social behaviour, fatal car accidents and disturbingly high blood alcohol readings.

"It is clear that the sale of bulk wine is a major contributing factor to many of these problems.

"Having examined the issues over some time, I have come to the conclusion that imposing the licence conditions is needed to address serious public order and safety concerns in Coober Pedy.

"Remote Aboriginal communities are also seriously impacted in the same way through takeaway sales at Coober Pedy because of 'grog running', despite these communities being 'dry areas'. **continued page 7**

**See page 7 for Liquor Commissioner's new alcohol restrictions for Coober Pedy**



# OME [OPAL MINER'S ENTERPRISE] - AN ORGANISATION BUILT BY THE OPAL MINERS, FOR THE OPAL MINERS

In the late '80s opal miners in Coober Pedy were concerned over rising costs and poor opal prices, with many appealing to committee members of the Coober Pedy Miners' Association Incorporated (CPMAI) for help.

Reducing costs was a formidable task. Members of the committee approached fuel retailers in town and asked if a discount on diesel fuel could be arranged to help the struggling local industry. The responses were negative and some suggested that they were not really concerned with opal miners' business and were concentrating on the flourishing tourism revenue.

The committee realised it was a do or die situation and decided to research the possibility of creating a co-operative that would sell diesel fuel to members. The CPMAI had an understanding with the Coober Pedy District Council (CPDC) that it would receive operational funding on an annual basis following the takeover of the Coober Pedy Progress and Miners Association by Local Government, it was not appropriate for the CPMAI to become a business entity.

After many discussions, the Opal Miners Enterprises Incorporated was created. The word Enterprises was designed to allow the organisation to grow and perhaps in the future accommodate a facility where miners could maximise their opal prices. In the meantime, diesel fuel at a reasonable price was the priority.

A new committee was formed and as an interim measure, most members of the original committee took on the additional role until the first Annual General Meeting.

At the time there was a feeling amongst the mining community that there was insufficient support given to the opal industry from the local council, so in order to rectify the situation, miners lobbied for positions in the next election and achieved a fifty percent representation. Council meetings became more controversial but in general the industry had a better outcome.

Research continued on how to set up and fund the project. Finding suitable land was the first challenge. The preferred option was the far end of the town triangle, which would have enabled miners to park their heavy machinery on the premises, have a secure parking area and carry out maintenance required without travelling through the town.

The Lands Department had no difficulty with this location but this location was totally unacceptable to the businesses in town and it had to be approved by Council. With local businesses so strongly against this site, Council approval could not be gained.

The Lands Department were willing to help with a new location and suggested the current Jewellers' Shop site and enabled the freehold purchase of this very large block. It was however, a previously mined site with open cuts and dumps and general rubble that had to be levelled.

The support from the mining community was immense and bulldozers were brought to the site and in no time the area was ready to be fenced. Fencing from the Old Water Works site was purchased, dismantled and erected around the perimeter of the now levelled site with two wide gates to allow access to fuel tankers. All the work was completed on a volunteer basis and everyone was happy to give time and energy to the project.

The large diesel tank was acquired from Mintabie and brought to the site and the first diesel pump was acquired and installed. An Atco shed was positioned for cashier and administration purposes and a diesel sign and pole to elevate it were made and donated by Ivan Vanajek.

Membership fees were collected and these were based on diesel fuel usage of each member eg those operating bulldozers and scrapers would be the highest user, blowers and tunnelling machines medium users and those with smaller requirements the lower users. Fees were \$1,000, \$500 and \$250 and these were for life.



A group of volunteers at the OME site during a working bee. *The support from the mining community was immense and bulldozers were brought to the site and in no time the area was ready to be fenced.*



Alan Griffith, Minister for Industry, Commonwealth Govt waving the Eureka flag with his staff member on his right and Ivan Vanajek and John Thrower, Mayor of CP on his left. (Not a great pic)



Anne Vanajek at the OME site at a later date



Then came the challenge of fuel for the miners

Many miners took a 'leap of faith' and paid fees straight away while others, perhaps being unsure if OME would work as intended, became members at a later stage when the business was up and running. The steady stream of income over time was very welcome and helped the business grow.

The business began operation in May 1989 and the first couple of diesel tanks were filled. Volunteers in teams of two took turns with two hourly shifts from 3 to 5 pm weekdays, one pumped the diesel and the other handled the money.

The OME was lucky to have Sieglinde Bruhns volunteer to take on the Treasurer position. She meticulously checked the daily takings with the cashbook entries and banked the proceeds and ensured there was sufficient change for the next day. Peter Bruhns, the President, took on the coordinating role and arranged deliveries, payments and researched and sought new products as time progressed.

To the delight of everyone involved the system worked exceedingly well and miners were delighted with the 13c per litre saving on diesel. Other fuel stations dropped their prices too but not to the same extent and therefore it was still a benefit for miners who stayed loyal to these suppliers.

A general meeting of opal miners was held in the Town Hall to understand how much support there was for adding explosives to the OME sales. The meeting was packed with standing room at the rear of the Hall. The support once again was overwhelming.

Enquiries were made into a suitable, sustainable supply of detonators, fuse, detonating cord, gelignite and nitropril (nitrate of ammonia). Once the feasibility of supply was determined, a piece of land was requisitioned from the town magazine area and this was fenced and gated by the security fencing left over from earlier.

A purpose-built container for the explosives was obtained and a very large safe was positioned in the opposite side of the area. Delivery was arranged and another product made available for purchase at a considerable saving.

Christmas came quickly and it was decided to host a free bbq for members and their families to say thank you for the continuous support. The event enabled miners to get together in a friendly relaxed way and its success made way for many happy parties in future years.

Overtime the business grew and the committee decided to extend opening hours and employ staff for the day to day operations. Peter Bruhns was employed as the Manager and Rosie Holzer took on the bookkeeping and cashier roles.

Stock was expanded to include tyres, batteries, belts, bearings and a large assortment of hardware items. A shed was purchased and erected by member volunteers, later another shed was placed adjacent to it and another sales area was established leaving the Atco shed to be used for storage and committee meetings.

Petrol was another commodity that miners required. After filling tankers with diesel they then had to get their fuel for trucks and utes from other service stations.

**Once again research went into the acquisition of underground tanks and bowzers and petrol supply. This was all possible and very soon completed but it could only be sold in very large quantities. In order to sell in practical amounts, a licence was needed.**

**Next edition - Gaining a fuel licence.**



# Federal Member, Rowan Ramsey's recent visit to APY Lands, disturbing assessment

## Plus: Dudley Dagg - Octogenarian Hero on the APY Lands

**There is a growing list of challenges in remote indigenous communities largely fueled by government policies which remove individual responsibility, is how the Federal Member for Grey Rowan Ramsey says best describes his most recent visit to the APY Lands.**

“On the upside are heart warming stories like **Dudley Dagg** who at 86 is still a very active captain of the Ernabella CFS,” Mr Ramsey said. “Dudley is unbelievable, and recounted his recent experience while attending a car/housefire in the town where he was attacked by the suspected arsonist who tried to stop Mr. Dagg from extinguishing the fire.

Dudley fought back by knocking the attacker off his feet with the blast from the high-pressure hose. All in the days work he reckons.”

Mr Ramsey said he was in Coober Pedy on Sunday night and met with the Council Administrator Geoff Sheridan and the acting CEO Gary Herdegan to discuss a range of issues.

“I’m disappointed to say the core problems of Council prohibiting its capacity to move out of administration remain the same as they have for a decade, namely their responsibility for running the water supply, electricity distribution and dealing with debts largely accumulated by these tasks,” he said.

“As far as I am aware, only in Roxby Downs, under far different circumstances, does any council in SA have to deliver these services, which everywhere else, are the core responsibility of the State Government.”

“There are a whole range of unique debt recovery issues in Coober Pedy which have contributed greatly to the accumulated debts,” Mr Ramsey said.

“Quite simply, the government should provide for debt cancellation and take Council’s water and electricity departments over.”

“Unless the State Government accepts its responsibility and steps in allowing Council to get back to core responsibilities, it is difficult to see how they can get out of administration.”

Mr Ramsey said the APY Lands presented a number of very important issues he will be attempting to highlight when he returns south.

“These include the incredibly downgraded presence of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) on the lands and the decision to close every school on the APY Lands three days earlier than scheduled for the holidays, just because of a weather forecast,”

Mr Ramsey said. “I am deeply concerned with the message this sends to students. The nurses, police, town services, even the art centre staff all stayed in place, only the school shut. Kids on the land already have two weeks less school a year than their counterparts in Adelaide.”



Fire Brigade Captain at Ernabella CFS Dudley Dagg and Rowan Ramsey Federal Member for Grey catching up on local happenings.



Murray George at Fregon and Rowan Ramsey sit down for a chat

Another issue Mr Ramsey is concerned about is the almost complete abandonment of the Kanpi/Nyapari communities and the subsequent closure of the store, which now prohibits the return of families.

**“I estimate there is \$50 million worth of public assets in these communities, currently being squatted in by travellers, vandalised and degraded. I have previously raised the issue with the now minister for indigenous Australians, Malindari McCarthy, with no result. I will do so again,” Mr Ramsey said.**

“Following the recent Cabinet re-shuffle she is the senior minister and could solve the problem with a stroke of her pen. We are desperately short of good housing on the lands and reopening the Kanpi store would put another 30+ houses back in use.”

“On the positive ledger, the age care centre at Ernabella, Purple House and the new visitors accommodation being built by the army at Amata are all going very well.”

Mr Ramsey was back in Coober Pedy on Thursday evening and dined at the Italian club which gave him an opportunity to catch up with more local news.



Rowan meets with the ladies from Iwantja Arts (Indulkana)



Rowan with Peter Jasper from Fusco Constructions in Adelaide who are currently building three transportable police stations for SAPOL at Indulkana, Pipalyatjara and Kaltjiti (Fregon) Aboriginal communities.

Fusco are currently working on the footings. The main buildings will come in segments.



# Australian crater could offer fresh insight into Earth's geological history

VCU's Arif Sikder of the Center for Environmental Studies is part of the research team that is going back in time – by hundreds of millions of years.

A probable crater stretching more than 370 miles, or 600 kilometers, across the heart of Australia could reshape our understanding of Earth's geological history.

Researcher Daniel Connelly and Virginia Commonwealth University's Arif Sikder, Ph.D., believe they have found evidence to support the existence of MAPCIS – the Massive Australian Precambrian-Cambrian Impact Structure – which is a nonconcentric complex crater that could provide new insights into the geological and biological evolution of our planet.

“Working on the MAPCIS project has been an incredible journey,” said Sikder, an associate professor in the Center for Environmental Studies, a unit of VCU Life Sciences. “The data we’ve gathered offers a unique glimpse into the forces that have shaped our planet, and I’m excited about the future research this discovery will inspire.”

This month, Connelly will make a presentation in Anaheim, California, at Connects 2024, the Geological Society of America's annual meeting. In August, he presented at the 37th International Geological Congress 2024 in Busan, South Korea.

According to researchers, the impact occurred at the end of the Ediacaran period, within the Neoproterozoic Era, which spans from 1 billion to 538.8 million years ago.

Among the geological evidence they have uncovered to support the age, size and location of the impact are massive deposits of pseudotachylite breccia, or melt rock, near the crater center. The researchers found shocked minerals, including lonsdaleite, or shocked diamond, in the deposits, along with impact level amounts of iridium.

“The discovery of MAPCIS is a testament to the power of collaborative research,” Connelly said. “Our findings not only highlight the significance of this impact structure but also open new avenues for understanding Earth's geological past.”



A surface geology map of the proposed Massive Australian Precambrian-Cambrian Impact Structure. (Provided by Daniel Connelly)

RIGHT: The pseudotachylite specimen that validates the existence of the impact was donated by Daniel Connelly to the Umoona Museum at Coober Pedy in 2011



Margaret Mackay 2011

In 2007 Daniel Connelly was preparing for a trip to Oz and casually looked at Australia on Google earth. He saw the shape of a large ring and thought it shouldn't be there. His natural curiosity has taken him to where MAPCIS is today. “The impact was hidden in plain sight”, he said.

Daniel and his two sons David and Kenneth stayed in Coober Pedy in 2011 as guests of Yanni Athansiadis of the Umoona Opal Mine and Museum. This tough rock was cut in Coober Pedy by opal dealer/cutter James Mougris to expose the glassy melt.

During this expedition Daniel met with many opal miners in Coober Pedy as well as travelling to Mintabie to gain some local geophysical knowledge of the area

The pseudotachylite has taken many long journeys since 2011. “The specimen has been x-rayed to identify the elements, and bombarded with radiation in a nuclear



Margaret Mackay 2011

David, Daniel and Kenneth Connelly with Opal Miner James Mougris - cutting the pseudotachylite reactor to attempt to find how old it is. It has been sliced ultra thin in order to pass light through it and look at it through a microscope.” said Daniel.

“With increased exposure scientists will want to come and study this phenomenon. Like the big impacts in South Africa, Canada and Mexico, tourists will come as well to see the biggest Earth mover ever,” he said.

## Ageing Well Community and Research Grants Now Open

Incorporated, non-profit organisations working with older people, are invited to apply for **Grants for Seniors** and **Positive Ageing Fellowship Grants**. Local governments and Aboriginal and Outback Communities are invited to apply for **Age Friendly SA Grants**. Researchers and research organisations are invited to apply for **Impact Research Grants**.

### Grants for Seniors

Grants of up to \$5,000 for equipment or materials that stimulate activity and social engagement for older people, and grants of up to \$10,000 for seniors' cultural, social, educational, or ageing well projects. Grants for Seniors will also support community activities during South Australia's Week of Ageing Well from 1 – 7 October 2025.

### Positive Ageing Fellowship Grants

One-off ageing specific grants of up to \$40,000 for capability building projects to support older South Australians to age well and contribute to delivering South Australia's Plan for Ageing Well 2020-2025.

### Age Friendly SA Grants

One-off grants for local governments and Aboriginal and Outback Communities of up to \$40,000 and up to \$60,000 for partnerships of at least three local governments for projects aligning with the Age Friendly SA Strategy key priorities.

### Impact Research Grants for Ageing Well

Seed Grants of up to \$25,000 are available for two projects of up to 12 months duration, and a Major Research Grant of \$100,000 for a project up to 24 months duration under the Strategic Research Agenda for Ageing Well.

**Applications for all grants are due by 5.00pm on Friday 22 November 2024.**

Find guidelines, eligibility, and how to apply at [www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/communitygrants](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/communitygrants) or contact South Australia's Office for Ageing Well at [ageingcommunitygrants@sa.gov.au](mailto:ageingcommunitygrants@sa.gov.au) or by phone 08 8204 2420.





# Order MEMORIAL SERVICE

## 1960 Anna Creek Tragedy

11am Saturday, 21 September, 2024

70km east of Coober Pedy, SA

**1 WELCOME TO COUNTRY:** *Raymond Finn*

**2 OPENING:**

**3 PRAYER:**

Dear God, we thank you for safe travel to this place of 'remembrance'. Thank you that we can gather in both sadness when we remember this terrible tragedy, but also in thankfulness to you for the lives you blessed for each of these men, resting in your peace... ..

**Rolf Entata,  
Laughing Willie,  
Jackaboy Rakara,  
Jimmy Graham,  
Frank Maynard.**

For all of your blessings we give you praise & glory. Amen.

**UNVEILING of PLAQUE:**

**4 'THE STORY':** *Dean Walker, Brendan Eblen, Glenn Auricht.....*

**5 QUIET TIME of REFLECTION:**

**6 BIBLE READING:** **Psalm 23**

*The Lord is my shepherd. He gives me everything I need.  
He lets me lie down in fields of green grass.  
He leads me beside quiet waters.  
He gives me new strength.  
He guides me in the right paths for the honour of his name.  
Even though I walk through the darkest valley of the shadow of death, I am not afraid.  
You are with me.  
Your shepherd's rod and staff comfort me.  
You prepare a feast for me, right in front of my enemies. You pour oil on my head. My cup runs over.  
I am sure that your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life.  
And I will live in the house of the Lord forever.  
AMEN*

**7 COMMENTS ON BIBLE READING:**

*Ingkaarta Neville Doecke*

**8 PRAYER:**

Dear God in heaven, we praise you because you are the giver of all of life. We thank you for the lives of these five Arrarnta men we remember today. For all the good things they did and for all who shared life with them, times both good and no good, we thank you dear Lord.

As we stand/sit here in this wide open space.....

...we are sad when we think about the terrible way these men died.

...but we are comforted too,....

...knowing that you adopted them as your "baptised children",

...you guided their lives,

...you protected and cared for them over many years.

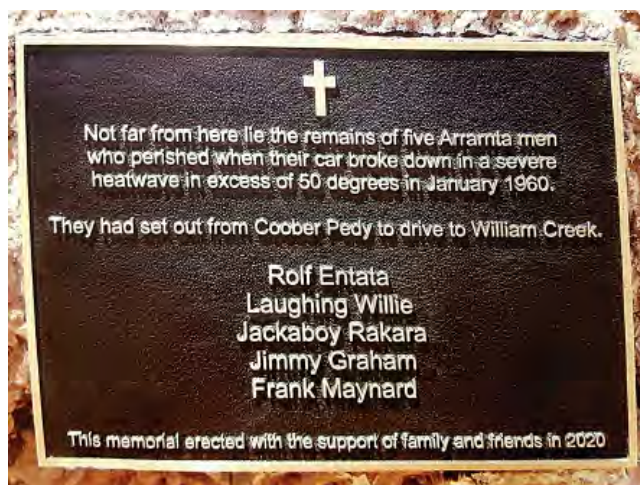
And then lord, when their bodies no longer lived, you carried each of them in your arms to be with you in heaven.

We thank and praise you for being a loving and caring God.

Amen



Frank Maynard's Grave (1960)



The memorial plaque fitted to the stone



Project workers, Brendan Eblen and David Hewitt



The motorcar used by the 5 men

**8 BLESSING:**

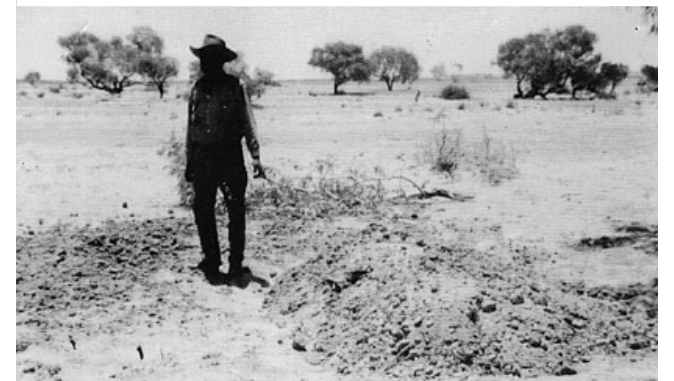
**Thank you:**

Virginia Rontji (dec)  
Olga Radke  
David Hewitt (dec)  
Dean Walker  
Glenn Auricht  
David Moore  
Avon & Desley Moyle (WA)  
Sonny Graham (WA)  
Arabana Corporation

Brendan Eblen –  
Co-ordinator  
Margaret Mackay –  
Coober Pedy Times  
Bruce Ross Mailman  
Roger Boland  
Bobby Hunter  
Tony Williams  
Matthew & Chantelle Williams  
Talbot Walsh – plaque maker WA



Jimmy Graham and Jackaboy Rakara



The graves of Jimmy Graham, Laughing Willie and Rolf Entata

**The move for a memorial to the men started in 2002** when Virginia, the daughter of Rolf Entata asked Olga Radke, historian with the Lutheran Church in Alice Springs if she could help her find the grave of her father. She wished to place a memorial in the area where the men died.

Olga and her husband had worked at the Hermannsburg Mission in the 1960s and she knew many of the Western Arrarnta people. Gathering information proved to be a real challenge and the enquiries paused in 2013 when Virginia passed away.

**Glen Auricht said,** "David Hewitt and I became interested in the project and were enlisted by Olga to visit the site on the William Creek Road, and to start chasing up police and contacts in Coober Pedy, Anna Creek Station, and elsewhere in South Australia, anybody who knew the story."

"This is where David Hewitt, the meticulous sleuth, made significant headway, in locating people who not only knew the story, but who also knew where some of the graves were."

"Another friend from Hahndorf, Brendan Eblen was fascinated with the whole story as David Hewitt related it. David had recently been diagnosed with cancer so Brendan took over the task. Brendan travelled to Coober Pedy and enlisted the help of locals. Anna Creek Station folk placed a suitable memorial stone at the designated site, and the Plaque was set in place on the side of William Creek road in the vicinity of the graves." **Thank you TEAM!**



DEATH NOTICE

McCLURE, Olivia Grace



Tragically taken too soon on 8 September 2024.

Aged 17 years.

Loved precious daughter of Clinton and Lisa.

Loved granddaughter of Nick & Jan and Bev & Barry.

Loved niece of Sami, Anne-Marie, Margaret & Rob, Mark, Raylene & Paul and Darren & Veronika.

Loved and missed by her cousins, extended family and friends.

'Fly our angel .... We love and miss you

Please refer to White Lady Funerals website for Funeral Details.

A Memorial Service will be held in Coober Pedy at a later date.



# OPAL EVOLUTION

## at Andamooka

Fri, 4 Oct, 6pm - 6 Oct, 9pm ACST

275 Opal Creek Blvd  
Andamooka, Australia



<https://events.humanitix.com/opal-evolution>

**Triple Zero (000)**  
For emergencies or life threatening situations.

**Police Assistance Line (131 444)**  
For non emergencies.

**Crime Stoppers (1800 333 000)**  
To provide crime information. It can be anonymous.

ACCOUNTANT - COOBER PEDY

Arid Areas Accounting  
Audit & Tax  
**Richard Younger**



These services include:

- Business Activity Statements (BAS)
- Income tax returns
- Book-keeping
- Payroll Services
- Business advice
- Audit
- Forming partnerships, trusts and companies
- Obtaining Australian Business Number (ABN)

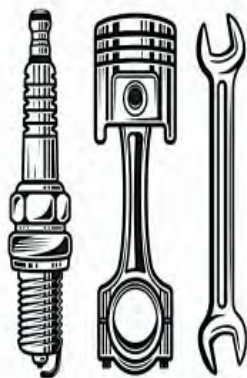
Mob: 0422 428 850  
[richard@aaaaat.com.au](mailto:richard@aaaaat.com.au)

We specialise in providing practical, sound accounting, auditing & tax services & advice to individuals, families & businesses

Office: Business Centre, Hutchison Street (next to Centrelink)  
PO Box 711 Coober Pedy

Supporting "Shop Local at Coober Pedy"

MECHANICAL



# RED DIRT

## Service and Repair

Workshop is now open week days - Call in and see Marcus



Lot 66 Seventeen Mile Rd (Opposite Lion's Club)  
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100085582637596>

PHONE: 0488007450 or FB Messenger



Motor Repairs  
Servicing  
Exhaust  
Brakes  
Truck/Trailer repairs  
Steering/suspension  
Clutch/transmission  
Radios and cooling

Diagnostics  
Auto electrical  
Air conditioning  
Air-con regassing  
Diesel mechanic  
Mining Machinery  
Heavy Vehicles  
Vehicle parking

## DISCLAIMER:

1) Opinions, Letters and Public Notices published in The Coober Pedy Regional Times are not necessarily the views of the Editor, or Publisher.

2) The Coober Pedy Regional Times reserves the right to edit or decline copy, in accordance with newspaper policies.

3) Due to fears of bureaucratic victimisation of whistleblowers, and allegations of bullying, community members or writers may use a 'PEN NAME' but must provide correct details for our files



# BULLS GARAGE

COOBER PEDY

Under new management

IS SELLING AUTO PARTS AND ACCESSORIES  
AT HUGELY DISCOUNTED PRICES



- Large range **TYRES**: Car & Light Vehicle tyres with Fitting available
- Large variety **WATER PUMPS**,
- ALTERNATORS**,
- STARTER MOTORS**
- BRAKE PADS, GASKET SETS**,
- OIL & FUEL FILTERS**

YOU NAME IT AND WE'VE  
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1/LOT 2001 Hutchison St,  
Coober Pedy SA 5723

|           |         |
|-----------|---------|
| Monday    | 7am-3pm |
| Tuesday   | 7am-3pm |
| Wednesday | 7am-3pm |
| Thursday  | 7am-3pm |
| Friday    | 7am-3pm |
| Saturday  | Closed  |
| Sunday    | Closed  |



**BULLS GARAGE,**  
**COOBER PEDY**

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at BULLS!**

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**(08) 8672 5036**

CONTACT

Whyalla


8645 4255

Port Pirie

86331744

Kadina

88214366



ROWAN RAMSEY MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR GREY

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF COOBER PEDY

rowan.ramsey.mp@aph.gov.au

MISSING PERSON

KNOW SOMETHING? CALL 131 444

POLICE



COOBER PEDY Country Fire Service

In an EMERGENCY - Ring Triple Zero - 000

For more information contact

Jeremy.lambert@sacfsvolunteer.org.au

Training: Second & Fourth Wednesdays - 7:00pm

Station is open each Wednesday evening at 7pm



WEDNESDAY

CFS TRAINING

Training 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 7.00pm.

MINE RESCUE/SES

1st Wednesday of the month 7.30pm, and  
2nd & 4th Saturday of the month 9am.

Unit Manager Contact detail is  
0427 725 446.

THURSDAYS

CP SHOOTERS CLUB

See back page for latest updates



FRIDAYS

Greek Charcoal BBQ every Friday at the Greek Hall.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Meets Fridays 7pm at the side of the Catholic Church

If you have a drinking problem and need help. Call 1800222222, Or call Dave on 0409349753

SATURDAYS

Saturday 21 September at 11 am  
Unveiling of Memorial at site 65km east along the William Creek road. Details to come.

PARKRUN

8am Saturday mornings  
Town Oval

 **GOLF 8 30am**

MINE RESCUE/SES

2nd & 4th Saturday of the month 9am  
Duty officer ph no: is 0427 752 446

CP SHOOTERS CLUB

See BACK page for latest updates, or Ring John DiDonna on 0427 649 389

CROATION CLUB

Happy Hour 6-7pm

SUNDAYS



KIDS CHURCH/CLUB  
Catacomb Anglican Church  
Every Sunday at 10 am ( 40 mins) - church starts at 9:30 am

CP SHOOTERS CLUB

See BACK PAGE for latest updates  
Ring John DiDonna on 0427649389

COOBER PEDY RSL

Open Sunday afternoon from 4.00pm,  
Happy hour and members draw between 5.00pm and 6.00pm

OPAL CREEK BOULEVARD

OPAL

FESTIVAL

PARTY

A GRASS ROOTS, INAUGURAL EVENT 2024 KICKS OFF WITH A LOCAL ARTIST FLAIR AND PROMISES TO EVOLVE INTO A MEGA EVENT BY 2027 WHEN ANDAMOOKA ROLLS OUT THE RED CARPET FOR THE NATIONAL OPAL SYMPOSIUM!

OPAL EVOLUTION ANDAMOOKA

FRIDAY, 4TH OCTOBER: PROJECTION OF HISTORIC PHOTOS SEMI-DUGOUTS AND DESIGN FROM 1930 - 1980 ONTO THE TUCKABOX BUILDING FROM SUNSET (APPROX 6:30 PM)

SATURDAY, 5TH OCTOBER: FROM 5 PM - LIVE MUSIC, A LICENSED BAR, KIDS' ACTIVITIES.  
STREET PARADE AT SUNSET FEATURING GIANT PUPPETS AND INFLATABLES, FOLLOWED BY COLOURED LIGHTS AND PROJECTIONS ONTO THE ANDAMOOKA LANDSCAPE.

SUNDAY, 6TH OCTOBER: FROM 5 PM - OUTDOOR CINEMA SCREENING 'ANDAMOOKA' BY MARA JEAN QUINN - BYO SNACKS AND DRINKS

ANDAMOOKA

4TH - 6TH OCTOBER 2024

FREE ENTRY | NO BYO DRINK ON SATURDAY  
CARPARK AT ANDAMOOKA SCHOOL - GOLD COIN DONATION  
FREE SHUTTLE BUS SATURDAY NIGHT



KINETIC

moving people

Opal Evolution Festival

Andamooka - Kinetic Shuttle bus Timetable:

Depart Roxby Richardson Place 16:30  
Arrive Andamooka School RD 17:15  
Depart Roxby Richardson Place 18:00  
Arrive Andamooka School RD 18:45  
Depart Roxby Richardson Place 19:30  
Arrive Andamooka School RD 20:15  
Depart Andamooka School RD 21:00  
Arrive Roxby Richardson Place 21:45  
Depart Andamooka School RD 22:30  
Arrive Roxby Richardson Place 23:15  
Depart Andamooka School RD 00:00  
Arrive Roxby Richardson Place 00:45

Please note: Anyone from the age of 16+ years old can use the bus service. No open food or drinks allowed on the bus. All children aged under 16 years old must be accompanied by an adult.

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Coober Pedy Regional Times

Friday 27 September 2024



# UNANSWERED QUESTIONS ONGOING

Unsatisfactorily answered questions and unilateral decision making remains an issue.  
The Government must stop giving unlimited dictatorial powers to underqualified individuals.



Ratepayers to pay \$35K per annum to maintain unrequested, abandoned courts



Courts in background, situated in the cross winds of the old asbestos ridden building from Maralinga



Rubbish collected from the site should be disposed of promptly due to high wind gusts



The doors of the old building were continually left open by council until community took action

1.) Why did council cut the budget for the town's Opal Festival in half, yet continue to spend \$80,000 on a FIFO consultant that needs pizzas and promises to get attendees into meetings?

2.) How much has the Council's together group (TG) cost the rate payers, to achieve nothing but a set of picnic benches in the playground? What the community is asking here is, "What is the **true cost** to the Ratepayers annually for the engagement of facilitator? Inclusive of salary, travel expenses, accommodation, use of vehicle, pizzas, other costs that might not be included in the published amount of \$80K?

3) How much did it cost the ratepayers when council closed its offices for arguably more than one day, and went for a jolly to Adelaide to meet with the Governor General? Just to clarify, we are talking about the payments for the facilitator's time, and the wages for those who did no work for the absentee period.

Interesting that Groups can visit Gov House anytime, with a permanent invitation for Groups to visit Government House on the Governor's own Website, <https://www.governor.sa.gov.au/office-of-the-governor/vice-regal-guidelines>

4.) Why is the Local Government Minister's attendance at Cooper Pedy, on the facilitators list to follow up from Adelaide visit? The trip to Adelaide did not secure or prompt Minister Joe Szach to visit Cooper Pedy. We have been aware for some months that Minister Joe Szach would be in Cooper Pedy in late July. Minister Szach is well aware of his obligations and commitments, therefore I find that entry inappropriate and misleading.

5.) When and who attended the public consultation on the latest rate increases and water / electricity hikes? The Administrator's response was completely dismissive of the ratepayer/community questions. Fait Accompli ?

6.) Why did council not adopt any queries on public submissions re Annual Budget Review. The administrators totally dismissed ratepayers concerns?

7.) a. Why did the council approve the refurbishment of the old Basketball courts with no public consultation or even a public notice? Does the council realise that the courts are within meters of a building riddled with asbestos, and toxic pigeon excrement?

7.) b. • **if an amendment to a CLMP has impact on the interests of the community a council may must conduct public consultation regarding the amendment.9**

Was a public notice published alerting the community to the BHP interest in our Community Land? If so, where was it placed? **Otherwise, without any notice or consultation the administrators appear to have decided that that the community would not be impacted. This action appears dismissive and disrespectful for the host community.**

Please produce the process used for this decision.

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8.) **Transparency Questions:** What is the funding source for the 'refurbishment' of the long ago abandoned and replaced Cooper Pedy Miners and Progress Association Basketball/Tennis Court (project)?

9.) What engagement with Cooper Pedy's Sport and Recreation Inc has taken place regarding the desired plan for the proposed project. Is there a copy of the new plan publicly available for our community to view?

10.) How does the District Council expect to issue a mining company with a social licence without full approval from the local community, and not be accused of exploitation?

11.) Has the council commissioned any experts on the gravity of asbestos in the old meeting hall? What does the open contamination mean for residents living close to it?

12.) When will the public consultation on the new CCTV cameras take place as promised by Mark Austin? Two years is a long time to have little or no security in our town, given the escalating crime. Is the funding still available?

13.) Why and when did the council gazette Emu Rd with no notification to the opal miners?

14.) Is it true that the tax payers/ratepayers are paying for 3 administrators to FIFO (flyin flyout), including accommodation transport and meals. We fail to see the value. There is no communication between the ratepayers in general and the three FIFO's.

15.) What austerity measures have been implemented to abate the council's spiralling multi million dollar debt?

16.) Why has our debt increased out of control since having administrators? Is the only way Council can almost balance its books, by creating financial hardship for innocent families? When will the Government provide legislations to ensure that our communities are not left continually vulnerable?

17.) Why does the council persist in taking a whistleblower ratepayer/councillor to court and exceed over 1 million dollars in legal costs; to what avail? why why why? Had we known the South Australian Government's solution to Administration we would never have asked for it.

18.) Why doesn't the council answer ratepayer questions? Your gleaming reports to the minister do not reflect our concerns and suffering.

On behalf of the Grass Roots people of this town we invite responses from Local Government Authority, State Government, Mining Industry.

The FIFO people have a home somewhere else. This is **OUR HOME** and we want to be consulted, even if there are loopholes available to you whereby you can avoid it and make **unilateral decisions**. We will rescind those decisions in the future, so stop wasting our time and money and start consulting with the people who have investments here.

George Kountouris (and others)  
Opal Miner, Business Owner, Ratepayer

Cooper Pedy Regional Times

Questions for Administrator  
**GEOFF SHERIDAN:**  
from Friday 26 July 2024

## RATEPAYERS FEEL SKINNED ALIVE WITH COUNCIL FORCING A BAILOUT PAYMENT FROM THEM

### PART 1: Too many complaints to publish!

As residents open up their new financial year rates notices, some are finding themselves paying \$1,000 extra for living on the outskirts of a remote town on a dirt road, as desperate council bureaucrats tax the community severely in a struggle to produce an end of financial year result.

A family living well outside the CBD is now paying over \$800 per quarter, (\$3.5K annually), as now living in a town where administrators, in our view, have been, left to their own devices and unable to prioritise their spending.````

Rates on a \$2M home in Adelaide is under \$3,000 per year. Residents who believe they are living inside a horror story have taken to blogging their uninhibited disgust across the world wide web.

Sad but true, our low income families are feeling exploited, as we are all **FORCED** to bail out the council (no genuine consultation) and by a type of garnishee deduction included on their rates notices via dubious fees / increases.

Wait till we receive council's new Electricity and Water charges! And wait for next year's increases when ratepayers are forced to pay for the maintenance of a bygone era! Adequately and respectfully replaced to support ALL of Cooper Pedy's youth, years ago!

**Q: Where is the oversight for this ongoing, sad parade of would be administrators, collecting top money from the public purse but continually failing to deliver appropriate remote area services?**

Collaboratively submitted by local Stakeholders.

**AS OF 8th or 9th AUGUST, NO ANSWERS TO PUBLISHED COMMUNITY QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED**

## Letter: OFF LIMIT RULES FOR ADMINISTRATORS NEEDED

Dear Editor,

**It is disturbing that council personalities have offered the abandoned basketball courts near the derelict community hall to a nearby mining company to achieve a 'social licence', committing the ratepayers to new 20 year debt.**

The basketball courts are a by product of the 70's, no longer needed or used. Even the newer models are of little interest in this day and age.

Shame on the council for neglecting to clear that area many moons ago to make way for the town's changing needs.

Why are those appointed to restore financial functionality behaving like drunken sailors with our affairs when the town is still recovering from a previous mining company's meddling in our community structure with serious ability to impact our personal and community financial positions.

We should have been consulted!  
**Q: How can we roll this poor decision back?**

Being given the title administrator does not make someone an overnight genius or an oracle. The state government **MUST** set boundaries for temporary administrators and place certain functions off limits. After 5 years there is no progress with whimsical and non transparent dealings impacting on the original debt and now into our personal incomes  
Local Stakeholders (supplied)

Friday 27 September 2024



# WELCOME TO GRANTS & OPPORTUNITIES

## 2024

**NEW**



### New grant opportunity coming soon! Future Drought Fund Resilient Landscapes Program

The Resilient Landscapes Program will focus on demonstrating how implementing and scaling of practices, technologies or approaches to manage natural resources on farm, contribute to building drought and climate resilience by improving landscape function and ecosystem services.

The Program will support implementation and scaling of activities that identify and manage natural capital tipping points or thresholds on farm for the public good of the Australian agriculture sector, landscapes, and communities.

#### Drought and climate resilience will be increased by projects that:

- achieve and measure impact at scale
- integrate environmental, economic, and social drought resilience
- target opportunities for long-term transformational change
- enable farmers to be prepared for and respond to drought
- promote learning and build capacity.

\$40 million is available through an open competitive grant process for projects between \$2 million and \$6 million. Activities must be undertaken over 6 years from 2024–25 until 2029–30.

Applications must involve a consortium of partners, with a lead organisation nominated as the 'applicant'. Each applicant must develop a theory of change for the project.

This grant opportunity is expected to be open for up to 8 weeks. **An information webinar will be held in early October for prospective applicants.**

Grant Opportunity Guidelines and other supporting documents will be published when the grant opportunity is open for applications. Program details may change with the published grant opportunity.

Delivered on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

#### Future Drought Fund Resilient Landscapes Program

##### Contact Details

##### Community Grants Hub

Phone:  
1800 020 283

Email Address:  
[support@communitygrants.gov.au](mailto:support@communitygrants.gov.au)

<https://www.grants.gov.au/FO/Show?FoUuid=c244d037-0cca-48a8-9a17-1f7c62c1a933&keyword=FO2024-2932>

Clare Scriven MLC, Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development

### THRIVING COMMUNITIES - GRANTS

Regional community groups will have the opportunity to apply for grants to support projects which benefit their local area with a new round of the Thriving Communities Program open today.

Delivered through the State Government's Thriving Regions Fund, the program provides grants from \$20,000 up to \$50,000 for small projects such as new or improved infrastructure, training, services, or events with well being outcomes.

Successful projects are those which build social capital through facilitating community group participation, create a sense of belonging and improve equity of access.

In 2022-23 the State Government provided funding to help bring 39 projects to life across South Australia's regions.

Upgraded visitor facilities at the historic Glencoe Woolshed, an extension at the Jamestown Shearer Training Centre, new machinery at the Millicent Men's Shed metal workshop and a new playground and shaded area at the Lochiel Community Centre were among last year's successful projects.

The grants support projects that can be completed within 12 months. **Applications open Thursday 12 September, and close on 24 October.**

VISIT: [pir.sa.gov.au/thriving-communities](http://pir.sa.gov.au/thriving-communities)

## Anzac spirit supported by new funding

This year, the Anzac Day Commemoration Fund is once again offering financial support to **local ex-service organisations**, community groups, schools, and local councils for initiatives that honour the Anzac legacy, with applications for the 2024-25 round now open.

Administered through Veterans SA, the 2024-25 funding round offers a total of \$100,000 and can be used to support commemorative services or projects aimed at educating the community on Australia's military history.

**Joe Szakacs MP Minister for Veterans' Affairs** said, "Each year we receive applications for an incredible range of projects and initiatives that help keep the spirit of Anzac Day alive in our communities".

"From memorials and headstones to virtual tributes, South Australians remain dedicated to honouring those who have served."

"I am pleased that through the State Government's support of these grants, we can ensure the sacrifices and contributions made by our servicemen and women will be felt, seen and remembered by future generations."

**Ian Smith, RSL SA Chair, Anzac Day Committee** said, "The Anzac Day Commemoration Fund is an important initiative to help us honour the legacy of our servicemen and women."

"It's an opportunity to create meaningful tributes that bring our history to the forefront and educate future generations about the immense contributions of our veterans, and I urge all eligible groups to apply." **Applications close at 5.00 pm on 31 October 2024.**

For more information on how to apply visit [veteranssa.sa.gov.au/grants](http://veteranssa.sa.gov.au/grants)



### \$11.4m boost to protect native vegetation in regional South Australia



**Landowners can now apply for a share of \$11.4 million in State Government grants to help restore and enhance native vegetation on their properties.**

Two new Native Vegetation Council grants launched today will help protect and improve habitat for threatened species, boost biodiversity and restore ecosystems.

The Restoration Grants program 2024-2026 will support long-term projects lasting up to 10 years in the Northern and Yorke, SA Arid Lands and Eyre Peninsula regions.

These three regions have been subject to higher levels of native vegetation clearance in recent years to enable important energy and resources projects as well as road infrastructure to be built.

Eligible grant projects may include, but are not limited to:

- Revegetation of local native species
- Pest plant and animal control of over-abundant native species
- Fencing to exclude stock or other activities that impact biodiversity
- Protecting vegetation through a Heritage Agreement.

**Applications close on 15 November 2024.** A second round of funding is expected to be announced in early 2025 and will likely be open to landholders in other parts of the state.

**A second program - the Incentive Grants** - encourage landholders to establish new Heritage Agreements to protect native vegetation on their land. Heritage Agreements are conservation areas on private land that help contribute to restoring or protecting native vegetation and biodiversity.

These grants will help fund short-term projects (1-5 years) and are available to all SA landholders. Applications can be submitted any time up to 30 June 2026, however, landholders are encouraged to apply early.

**Susan Close MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water** said, *Only 33 per cent of native vegetation remains in South Australia's agricultural zone, so restoring what is left and revegetating new areas is critical to halt and reverse this decline.*

*The Native Vegetation Council plays an important role in funding projects that will improve habitat for wildlife, such as Malleefowl, Plains-wanderer and Southern Whiteface. These grants also support healthy ecosystems by increasing the amount of woodlands across our state.*

*Native Vegetation Heritage Agreements have ensured the long-term protection of more than a million hectares of the state's native vegetation since the initiative was first introduced in 1980.*

*This latest funding package is a great example of the State Government working with private landowners to deliver positive results for the environment.*



# Australians look to pharmacy for treatment of everyday health care needs

South Australia, particularly remotes areas do not yet have this program



**Coober Pedy Pharmacy**  
Open now to 17:30

Shop 1 Lot 171 Hutchison Street

COOBER PEDY 5723

+61886723444

Open 09:00 to 17:30

## Vaccination Services

COVID-19 (Moderna)

COVID-19 (Novavax)

COVID-19 (Pfizer)

COVID-19 (Pfizer 5-11)

Influenza

## Services Provided:

Absence from Work

Certificates

Asthma Management

Blood Glucose Testing

Blood Pressure Monitoring

...and 44 more

## COVID-19

Lagevrio®

Paxlovid®

Many community pharmacists are now delivering an increased range of everyday health services including vaccinations, the prescription of hormonal contraceptives and the treatment of urinary tract infections (UTIs).

New data confirms pharmacists are highly trusted, with 82 per cent of Australians saying they have confidence in their pharmacist to provide health advice for common, non-complex conditions.

Today on World Pharmacists Day, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia is celebrating the growing role of community pharmacists in providing for the health care needs of all Australians.

Australians are reminded to 'think pharmacy first' for the treatment of everyday health conditions, as pharmacists across the country upskill to deliver more for patients.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President and Cairns pharmacist, Professor Trent Twomey, said pharmacists were doing more for their patients than ever before, providing Australians with more choice and more affordable primary health care options.

"Already highly qualified health professionals, pharmacists are upskilling to increase the scope of the services they deliver, including being able issue prescriptions and advice for minor ailments like earaches, skin conditions and UTIs and administering a range of vaccinations," said Professor Twomey.

"Pharmacists are a critical part of a holistic health system. We are putting our hands up to do more, to take the pressure off GPs and, more importantly, to keep Australians out of emergency departments," Professor Twomey said.

"With pharmacy playing a more versatile role in the health care system, Australians with more serious conditions can be seen by their GP faster, when they need it most."

New research reveals overwhelming support for pharmacists to step up, with 9 in 10 Australians saying they backed pharmacists to offer more primary health care services.

The data also shows pharmacists are highly trusted, with 82 per cent of Australians saying they have confidence in their pharmacist to provide health advice for common, non-complex conditions.

"The good news is with more than 36,107 pharmacists working across 5,900 community pharmacies nationwide, access to health care services has the potential to be better than ever.

"More than 95 per cent of metropolitan Australians live within 2.5 kilometres of a pharmacy, with 83 per cent of regional Australians within five kilometres. Many pharmacies are open evenings and weekends, further facilitating access.

"Queensland, New South Wales, Western Australia, the Northern Territory, and the ACT have all launched programs allowing community pharmacists to provide more health care services to their patients.

"These programs bring Australia in line with countries like England, Wales, Canada, and New Zealand, allowing patients to have a greater choice in how and where they access their frontline health care services," Professor Twomey said.

"On this World Pharmacist Day, we celebrate the critical role community pharmacies play in keeping Australians healthy and easing the burden on the greater health care system."

Visit [www.findapharmacy.com.au](http://www.findapharmacy.com.au)

## GENERAL NEWS

# Obesity now the biggest preventable health risk

Chris Picton MP  
Minister for Health and Wellbeing

South Australians are being warned obesity is now the leading risk factor in preventable health conditions – overtaking smoking – with new modelling revealing its potential impact on life expectancy.

It comes as the current State Government introduces new laws to State Parliament this week legislating a new independent health agency to tackle urgent preventive health issues such as obesity.

According to recent data, around 68 per cent of adults and 27.5 per cent of children across South Australia are currently overweight or obese. Modelling indicates that if no action is taken, the number of people overweight or obese is expected to grow by an additional 1,900 children and 48,000 adults over the next five years.

Alarming, recent modelling predicts that without action, children born last year could see as much as a seven-month reduction in life expectancy because of obesity, which is a greater impact than COVID-19.

The research also suggests that experiencing obesity in childhood can lead to obesity in adulthood, and obesity at middle age contributes to the chance of hospitalisation and serious health conditions in middle age.

Around 38 per cent of Australians are being impacted by health issues that could have been prevented if they reduced their exposure to risk factors including obesity, smoking, alcohol and drugs.

Tackling obesity and other concerning health issues is the focus of South Australia's new prevention agency, Preventive Health SA – a key election commitment from the Malinauskas Labor Government.

This week, the Preventive Health SA Bill 2024 will be introduced to Parliament to secure the long-term future of Preventive Health SA as an independent health agency. Preventive Health SA brings together Wellbeing SA and parts of Drug and Alcohol Services SA in a single independent agency to strengthen the prevention agenda in South Australia.

Former Wellbeing SA head Marina Bowshall has been appointed chief executive of this important agency.

Preventive Health SA will lead evidence-informed, innovative and integrated action to prevent and reduce the burden of non-communicable health conditions and improve health equity across South Australia and future generations.

The agency covers the breadth of preventive health action and drives system-wide reforms by undertaking, commissioning, and evaluating preventive health policies, programs, and services, leading community education initiatives and collecting and monitoring population health and wellbeing data and publishing reports.

The Preventive Health SA Bill 2024 also establishes the Preventive Health SA Council to provide strategic advice and support to the Chief Executive, with its members to be selected based on their diverse health knowledge, expertise and experience.

For more information, go to the Preventive Health SA website.



# Australia's 3G networks are closing

Act now to stay safe and connected.

**What does this mean and why is it happening?**  
Australia is in the process of phasing out 3G mobile networks as part of its transition to more advanced 4G and 5G technologies. The switch-off involves the shutdown of older cellular networks, which have been in service since the early 2000s, in favour of faster and more efficient networks.

**Why is AgriFutures contacting me about the 3G shutdown?**  
This shutdown is particularly important to us, as many of our stakeholders live and work in a remote, rural or regional area. In these areas, residents are more likely to be directly affected by the closure since there is a higher reliance on 3G networks for communication. Devices that may use the 3G network include (but are not limited to):

- 3G-only SIM cards, mobile phones, tablets and laptops
- 4G-enabled devices that do not have VoLTE (Voice over LTE) capability
- 4G-enabled devices that use 3G to force emergency calls through
- Antennas and wireless-to-landline links
- Autonomous farming robots
- Drones and other UAVs
- EFTPOS terminals and other finance systems
- GPS systems in machinery or vehicle fleets
- Internet of Things (IoT) devices and other devices within closed networks
- Irrigation systems
- Livestock monitoring devices
- Medical alarms, and other medical devices
- Mobile broadband modems and Wi-Fi signal repeaters
- Power generators, solar panels, smart meters for water/gas/electricity, and energy storage systems
- Second-hand or refurbished phones, or phones purchased overseas
- Smart fencing and/or gate control systems
- Smart watches and other wearables
- Weather stations, soil/water sensors and other on-farm data collection equipment
- Wired or remote security cameras, closed network security systems and alarms.

Any of the above devices which do not have 4G/5G compatibility will no longer work after the 3G network is switched off.

**When will the 3G networks be switched off?**  
Telstra and Optus have extended their switch off date - both carriers will now switch off their 3G networks from Monday, 28 October 2024. Upgrading to 4G/5G capable devices before this date is essential to ensure continued access to data, voice calls, SMS/text messaging, and emergency services.

Will I be able to call Triple Zero (000) and access emergency services?  
If you don't upgrade your 3G-only mobile device before Monday, 28 October 2024, you will not be able to call Triple Zero (000) in the event of an emergency. Do not call Triple Zero (000) to test your device - this won't help you work out whether your device is affected and may stop others accessing life-saving support.

**What do I need to do to prepare for the shutdown?**

Find out what network your mobile service provider uses if you are not a direct customer of Telstra or Optus.

Check if your current communication devices support 4G/5G. To test whether or not your device will be affected, you can:  
Text 3 to 3GXT (text the number '3' to '3498').  
Call 13 22 00 (Telstra customers) or 13 39 37 (Optus customers).  
Search your device's 15-digit IMEI (International Mobile Equipment Identity) number via the Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association (AMTA)'s 'Check My Device' tool.

Even if your communication device is 4G/5G capable, check if it has VoLTE (Voice over LTE) capability.

Follow the same process for your other devices that connect to a mobile network. Contact the manufacturer of a device as soon as possible if you are unsure whether or not it will continue working after the shutdown.

**Where can I find more information?**  
AgriFutures encourages you to contact the organisations listed below for any further questions you may have. Both Telstra and Optus are actively reaching out to customers who may be affected via SMS, email, call, letter, or you may hear a recorded message play before you make an outbound call. Be aware of scams and only contact your mobile provider directly using trusted information.

# Coober Pedy Magistrate Court

Malliotis Blvd. Coober Pedy (08) 8672 5601



**Coober Pedy Sitting dates in OCTOBER**  
Monday 21 Oct  
Tuesday 22 Oct  
Wednesday 23 Oct  
Thursday 24 Oct  
Friday 25 Oct

<https://www.courts.sa.gov.au/case-lists/coober-pedy-caselist/>

<https://www.courts.sa.gov.au/case-lists/roxby-downs-caselist/>

## APY LANDS COURT Sitting dates in SEPTEMBER

|                   |   |               |
|-------------------|---|---------------|
| Monday 23 Sept    | - | Pipalyatajara |
| Tuesday 24 Sept   | - | Amata         |
| Wednesday 25 Sept | - | Fregon        |
| Thursday 26 Sept  | - | Indulkana     |

# VAPING POSES A NEW AND SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC HEALTH RISK

The rapid uptake of vaping products containing nicotine poses a new and significant public health risk, as young people who vape are three times more likely to take up tobacco smoking.

The progress in driving down smoking rates will be boosted by significant new investment, including a \$16 million funding boost for more enforcement officers to crack down on the sale of illegal tobacco and vaping products.

Licensing and enforcement will be driven by officers in Consumer and Business Services (CBS) from July 1.

Staffing will be expanded within CBS to get more inspectors out enforcing compliance with licensing and sale of tobacco and vaping products regulations in South Australia.

The State Government has also implemented a hard-hitting advertising campaign – “Every vape is a hit to your health” – that is targeted at 15 to 25-year-olds who currently vape and those who might be at risk of future uptake.



For emergencies or life threatening situations call  
**Triple Zero (000)**



For non emergencies call the  
**Police Assistance Line 131 444**



To provide crime information anonymously contact  
**Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000**



Updated Local Service  
Provider Listings

- C.P. Police Station

Malliotis Blvd. Coober Pedy  
(08) 8672 5056; Assistance 131 444;  
Emergency 000; Crime Stoppers 1800 555 677
- Coober Pedy Hospital

Lot 89 Hospital Rd  
Open 24 hours · (08) 8672 5009
- Coober Pedy Medical Practice

Lot 89 McDougal Road  
(08) 8678 9224
- iCCnet SA (Remote Health Monitoring)

Level 1, Administration Building  
1 Tonsley Boulevard, Tonsley SA 5042, Australia  
Tel 7117 0600 (9am to 8pm seven days a week)  
Email: HEALTHFMCiCCnetSA@sa.gov.au
- Coober Pedy Area School

17/18 Paxton Rd. Coober Pedy  
(08) 8672 5077
- Umoona Tjutagku Health Service

Lot 8 Umoona Rd  
(08) 8672 5255
- Housing SA

Lot 334 Hutchison St (Opposite Bank)  
PHONE: 131 299
- Centrelink

LOT 715 Hutchison St. Coober Pedy  
13 24 68
- District Council of Coober Pedy

LOT 773 Hutchison St. Coober Pedy  
(08) 8672 4600
- Coober Pedy Tourist Information Cen.

LOT 773 Hutchison St  
(08) 8672 4600
- Umoona Community Council Inc

Umoona Rd  
(08) 8672 5246
- MAP/Sobering Up Centre.

Ph: 86723903  
MAP BUS Tues to Sat. 4pm-12am.  
Sobering Up Centre Tues - Sat 4pm - 8am
- Umoona Tjitji Tjapu Tjuta Childcare Centre

Lot 315 Robins Blvd  
(08) 8672 5644
- Umoona Aged Care

Lot 89 Hospital Rd  
(08) 8672 5605
- National Indigenous Australians Ag. (NIAA)

17/18 Paxton Rd. Coober Pedy  
(08) 8672 5077
- Far North Health Advisory Council

C/- Coober Pedy Hospital  
(08) 8672 5009
- C.P. Community Correctional Centre:

Malliotis Blvd. Coober Pedy  
(08) 8672 3091
- Uniting Country SA

Paxton Rd  
1300 067 777
- TAFE SA

Adult education school  
Hutchison St. Coober Pedy  
(08) 8678 9000
- Coober Pedy Magistrates Court

Malliotis Blvd. Coober Pedy  
(08) 8672 5601
- Child Abuse Report Line (CARL)

131478
- Aboriginal Family Support Services

Lot 1991 Aylett Street, Coober Pedy  
(08) 8672 3066

Coober Pedy Country Fire Service

COMMITTEE  
Captain: Jeremy Lambert  
2nd Lieutenant: David Frost (Frosty)  
3rd Lieutenant: Ann Gerschwitz  
Senior Firefighter: Linda Buckeridge  
Contact:  
Jeremy.lambert@sacfsvolunteer.org.au  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/813853775367739>

Coober Pedy Retail, Business &  
Tourism Assoc. Inc

Coober Pedy SA 3723  
Committee Elected for 2024  
President: George Kountouris  
Vice President: George Russell OAM  
Treasurer: Nick Brellas  
Secretary/Public Officer: Nicky Kountouris  
Committee Members: Irene Spillmann  
Daniel Tsharke Sean Harrison  
Contact: chair@cooberpedy.com  
<https://www.cooberpedy.com/contact-2/>

Coober Pedy Sports & Rec Assoc. Inc

Dilusha Fernando - Chairperson  
Jacqui Boland - Treasurer  
Gwen Martin - Secretary  
Jon Fatt-Clifton - Committee member  
Paul Maduro - Committee member  
Email: cpsportsandrecreation@gmail.com  
  
COOBER PEDY, SA 5723  
Committee Elected for 2024-2026

COOBER PEDY SHOOTERS CLUB Inc

COOBER PEDY, SA 5723  
Committee Elected for 2023/2024“  
  
President Daniel Lamb  
“Senior Vice President Stephen Scott“  
Junior Vice President Nil“  
Secretary John Di Donna“  
Treasurer Suzanne Bunker“  
Public Relations Daniel Lamb“  
PR /MPIO Officer Tabetha Wilkes“  
F/Arms Instructor Chris Warrior“  
F/Arms Instructor John Di Donna“  
F/Arms Instructor Dale Price“  
F/Arms Instructor James Michie“  
Licensee/Armourer Chris Warrior“  
Licensee/Armourer Daniel Lamb  
Contact Secretary: 0427 649 389

Coober Pedy RSL (Sub)

President: Raylene Hagel  
Mick Cox: Vice President  
Treasurer: Miriam Kammermann  
Secretary: Peta Burnett  
Kingsley Kammermann  
Matt Corner, Ronda Michell  
Malcolm Michell, Rosslyn Jazepczyk  
Julie Knight-Eastwood

Coober Pedy RSL, Edward Street  
COOBER PEDY SA 5723  
(08) 8672 5477

Coober Pedy Historical Society Inc

Committee 2024  
Chairperson: Yuko Castles  
Secretary: Jenny Davison  
Treasurer: Sue Britt  
Janet Walton, Edi Brandli  
Contact: cooberpedyhs@gmail.com

Coober Pedy GEM TRADE  
SHOW Assoc.

Committee 2024  
TBA

ASSOCIATIONS

COOBER PEDY MINERS ASSOC.

Coober Pedy SA 3723  
Committee Elected for 2024  
President: Matt Graham, Secretary:  
Monique Harding  
Treasurer: John Olsson,  
Committee Members: Rod Wells, Mish  
Blanusa, Dean Kennelly, Sebastian Crisa,  
Mike Eakins, Steve Perkins,  
Lachlan Blanchford, Shannon Blanchford,  
Bailey Stevens

Coober Pedy Opal Fields  
Golf Club Inc.

Coober Pedy SA 3723  
Committee Elected for 2024  
Club Captain: Stephen Borrett  
President: Chevahn Hoad  
Secretary: Nadine Lewis  
Treasurer: Father Paul Crotty  
Grounds Keeper: Dylan Lewis  
Bar Manager: Stephen Borrett  
Committee Members:  
Chloe Lewis, Miro Markovic  
Contact: cooberpedygolfclub@gmail.com

Coober Pedy Area School  
Governing Council

Members  
Maurice Saah (Principal) - Ex-Officio Member  
Elected Staff Representative  
Veronika Witham  
Elected Parent Members  
Lisa McClure  
Chantelle Bamford- Secretary  
Sabrina Troisi- Treasurer  
Lyn Boussios  
Ariane Montminy-Roberge- Chairperson  
Lia Pantelis, Yuko Castles  
Marzena Mazurkiewicz  
Sarah Rethus; Donna Clements  
Elected Community Members  
Amber McDonald; Maria Brellas  
We are currently waiting on our  
representatives from the Umoona Community  
and the District Council of Coober Pedy


Outback Open Air Cinema Inc  
(Coober Pedy Drive In )  
Committee 2023 -2024

Chantelle Bamford Chairperson  
Rebecca Nicolle Deputy chair  
Tanya Lauder Secretary/Treasurer  
Lyndal Price - Committee member  
Gemma Hoad - Committee member  
Kaysy Clet de Leon-Committee member  
Bethany Aylett- Committee member  
<http://www.cooberpedydrivein.org.au/>

DUSTY RADIO INC


Committee 2024  
Chairperson Tony Wiegand  
Secretary: Sharon McFarlane  
Treasurer: Suzanne Bunker  
Public Officer: Patsy Anne Noble  
Social Media Officer: Rika Wiegand  
Committee member: Tess Wiegand  
Committee member: Karen Harvey  
<https://www.dustyradio.com.au/>





Cooper Pedy Shooter's Club

Established 1974



Cooper Pedy Shooter Club welcomes all new members, visitors and Sponsors

If you don't have a firearm, come along & our members will assist you with all enquiries.  
Minimum age for shooting at the club is 10 yrs (Rifles and Air Pistol)  
& 10 yrs (Pistols).

Starting Times 9:00 AM

Saturday — Pistols (Military)

21 September

28 September

5 October

12 October

19 October

DISCIPLINES INCLUDE:

Air Rifle/ pistol

IPSC

ISSF

Rifle Metallic Silhouette

Combine Service

Black Powder

Service pistol

Shotgun

Steel Challenge

Cooper Pedy Shooter's Club supports:

Darts

Archery

Starting Time: 10:00 AM

Sundays .22 Rimfire 50m Benchrest

22 September

29 September

6 October

13 October

20 October

FINAL REMINDER MEMBERSHIP Renewal Now Due 2024

Single Membership \$ 100.00

Couple Membership \$150.00

Family Membership \$ 200.00

Affiliate Membership \$20.00

SSAA MEMBERSHIP DUE NOW

Sign-up online

<https://ssaasa.org.au>.... Or at the club

Any Enquires regarding Membership, sponsorships, donations, or shooting, please contact  
Suzanne Bunker - - Email [cpssc.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:cpssc.treasurer@gmail.com)  
John Di Donna - Mobile 0427 649 389 - Email. [jdiddonna@dodo.com.au](mailto:jdidonna@dodo.com.au)

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Cooper Pedy Regional Times

Friday 27 September 2024